



Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency

Office of Innovative Projects

Announcement of 2025-2027 *Early On* Faculty Grants

The *Early On* Center for Higher Education, an Innovative Project of Clinton County RESA, is pleased to announce the availability of mini-grants for the 2025-2027 grant cycle. These grants are intended to support research and practical application projects in the field of early intervention within the State of Michigan.

The *Early On* Center for Higher Education serves as Michigan's pre-service initiative to promote the development of highly qualified early intervention personnel. The focus is on professionals prepared to serve infants and toddlers, birth to age three, with disabilities and/or special needs and their families.

This initiative is funded by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) through a grant from the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) to Clinton County RESA.

Scope and Purpose of Faculty Grants:

Grant Priority Areas for Research and Personnel Preparation in Early Intervention

All grant requests must address research questions related to early intervention and/or activities that support the preparation of personnel likely to work in the early intervention field. Funded activities may include, but are not limited to:

- **Research on the impact of the B-K Grade Banding on:**
 - The preparation and effectiveness of early intervention personnel working with infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families; and/or
 - Institutions of higher education and how their preparation programs are structured and implemented.
- **Curriculum Development for Personnel Pathways:**

Develop early intervention specific curricular content to embed within Career



and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Community Colleges, Universities, and Graduate programs to strengthen pathways for early intervention personnel preparation.

- **Internship/Practicum Development:**
Design and/or implement internship or practicum opportunities for Michigan students in placements focused on birth-to-three services that align with *Early On* programming. (See, for example, [Iowa's Early Intervention Field Experiences](#))
- **Early Intervention Coursework Design:**
Research and develop coursework focused on building the knowledge and skills of early intervention personnel who serve infants and toddlers, birth to age three, with disabilities and/or special needs and their families.
- **Instructional Video Resources:**
Develop video resources demonstrating evidence-based and effective home visiting practices in birth-to-three early intervention. Emphasis should be placed on coaching models and family-centered practices.
- **Interdisciplinary Pre-Service Models:**
Conduct research on models and delivery methods for interdisciplinary pre-service preparation across fields such as social work, early childhood education, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and physical therapy.
- **Cross-Disciplinary Social Work Practices:**
Engage in research or professional learning activities that examine the social work nature of early intervention and its application across disciplines.
- **Tele-Intervention Practices:**
Study the implementation and effectiveness of tele-intervention methods in delivering evidence-based early intervention services.
- **Lead Exposure and Intervention Efficacy:**
Conduct a study to assess the efficacy of an evidence-based early intervention strategy or model when implemented with families of infants and toddlers exposed to lead.
- **Practice and Outcomes Correlation:**
Analyze early intervention practices in Michigan and their correlation with available child outcomes data across service areas.



- **Long-Term Impact of *Early On* Participation:**
Investigate the elementary school success of children formerly enrolled in *Early On*, including academic, behavioral, and developmental outcomes.
- **Innovative Personnel Preparation Initiatives:**
Propose and pilot other innovative approaches aimed at strengthening the preparation, support, and retention of early intervention personnel in Michigan.
- **Study of Family Training Methods/Frameworks/Models in Early Intervention**
Examine and evaluate the current methods, frameworks, and evidence-based strategies used to deliver effective family training services for children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

Who is eligible to Apply?

Eligible applicants include Michigan **faculty** at two-year colleges and Michigan **faculty** and **graduate students** at four-year colleges and universities. Applicants must currently be teaching courses that prepare early intervention personnel or engaged in research related to early intervention practices.

Award:

The *Early On* Center for Higher Education will award one or two grants, with a total funding amount not to exceed \$14,000. Grant award announcements will be made on October 6, 2025. Grantees will receive 75% of funds upon award announcement, with the remaining balance disbursed upon submission of the final report. The *Early On* Center for Higher Education does not permit indirect costs to be charged against the Faculty Grants. All work funded by the grant must be completed within the grant period.

All materials developed as a result of the Faculty Grant will be the property of the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) and the *Early On* Center for Higher Education. Research and materials produced must acknowledge the funding source with the following statement:

"This project is supported by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act through funds awarded by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential and Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects/Early On Center for Higher Education."



Requirements:

Applications/proposals may be **no longer than seven pages plus résumé/curriculum vitae**. For funded projects, a final report of outcomes and budget expenditures must be submitted to Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects at the conclusion of the grant period/project, September 30, 2027.

Faculty Grant Application Review Criteria:

Applications for faculty grants will be evaluated based on their alignment with the mission of the *Early On* Center for Higher Education. Funded projects must focus on clarifying aspects of the *Early On* Michigan system and/or contribute to research that strengthens personnel preparation in early intervention.

Priority will be given to proposals that include:

- **Clearly Stated Goals and Objectives**
Proposals should articulate focused, measurable, and relevant goals that guide the scope and purpose of the project.
- **A Specific and Feasible Plan of Action**
The application must describe a realistic and actionable plan for achieving the stated objectives, including timelines, activities, and responsible personnel.
- **Relevance to Early Intervention in Michigan**
Proposals should outline how the project will produce new information that is relevant to the understanding or improvement of early intervention, specifically as implemented in Michigan.
- **Development of Practical Resources or Models**
Projects should lead to the creation of information, tools, or models that can be used by institutions of higher education or systems preparing early intervention personnel.
- **A Clear Connection to *Early On* Michigan**
The proposal should demonstrate a strong, direct link to *Early On* Michigan goals, practices, or system development.
- **Reasonable and Detailed Budget**
Budgets must be appropriate to the scope of the project and clearly itemized, with justifications provided for all line items.



- **Demonstrated Research Experience**

Applicants should provide evidence of prior success in conducting research or managing similar projects, including relevant qualifications or publications.

Deadline to Apply:

All applications must be received by **12:00 p.m. on September 12, 2025** via email. No fax applications will be accepted. Send **email/electronic application** to holmberg_k@ccresa.org.

Questions:

For more information about the *Early On* Faculty Grants, please contact:

- **Kari Holmberg** at holmberg_k@ccresa.org | (866) 334-5437
- **Christy Callahan** at callahan_c@ccresa.org | (866) 334-5437

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