



Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency
Office of Innovative Projects

Announcement of 2020 *Early On*® Faculty Grants

The *Early On*® Center for Higher Education, an Innovative Project of Clinton County RESA, invites applications for mini-grants to support research in the field of early intervention and its practical application in the State of Michigan. **The *Early On*® Center for Higher Education is Michigan's pre-service initiative to support the development of highly qualified early intervention personnel to work with infants and toddlers, birth to three with disabilities and/or special needs, and their families.** The Center is funded by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), through a grant from the Michigan Department of Education to Clinton County RESA.

Scope and Purpose of Faculty Grants: All grant requests must address research questions related to early intervention and/or activities that **support the preparation of personnel who are likely to work in the field of early intervention.** Funded activities might include (but are not limited to):

- a study on the efficacy of an evidence-based early intervention strategy or model with families of infants and toddlers who have been exposed to lead.
- examination of family use of technology and impact on all areas of development in infants and toddlers, birth to age 3;
- examination of credentials of current early intervention providers and impact on ability to serve effectively;
- examination of credentials of current early intervention providers and agency ability to capture Medicaid funds;
- examination and/or development of videos demonstrating evidence-based, effective home visiting in birth to three early intervention with a focus on coaching and family-centered practices;
- research colleges and universities in Michigan to locate academic departments and programs that offer certificates and degrees in Early Childhood Education and/or Early Childhood Special Education with a focus or concentration track of birth-to-three;

- development and/or implementation of early intervention content and skill-development focused on infants and toddler birth-to-three with disabilities and/or special needs and their family;
- research and examine careers in early intervention that are available in Michigan;
- an examination of early intervention service providers in Michigan and their professional preparation;
- research of models for providing interdisciplinary pre-service preparation for future early interventionists, including fields of social work, early childhood education, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, physical therapy;
- development and/or implementation of a mentoring program for current early interventionists in order to support appropriate supervision of students in practicum placements that focus on services to infants and toddlers, birth to three;
- a study of early intervention practices in Michigan correlated to the child outcomes data available for each service area;
- a study of former enrollees of the *Early On*® system and their success in elementary school;
- an examination of pre-service personnel preparation in Michigan compared with other state pre-service personnel preparation systems, such an examination could study the use of cross-disciplinary instruction and/or use of parents as co-instructors;
- other innovative work that would lead to support for the preparation of early intervention personnel in Michigan.

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

Deadline: All applications must be received by **12:00 p.m. on March 6, 2020** via email. No fax applications will be accepted. Send **email/electronic application** to holmberg_k@ccresa.org.

Award: The *Early On*® Center for Higher Education will award one or two grants whose sum is not more than \$7,000. Announcements of grant awards will be made April 8, 2020. Grantees will receive 75% of funds upon announcement of the award and the balance upon submission of the final report. *Early On*® Center for Higher Education does not permit indirect costs to be charged against the *Early On*® Faculty grants.

Criteria: Applications for **faculty grants will be judged on how closely they fit with the mission of the *Early On*® Center for Higher Education**. Grants will be limited to projects that clarify aspects of the *Early On*® Michigan system and research that will enhance personnel preparation. Preference will be given to proposals that provide:

- Clearly stated goals and objectives;
- A specific, feasible plan of action to accomplish well-defined objectives;
- A plan that will result in new information that is relevant to the understanding or improvement of early intervention as it is implemented in Michigan;
- A plan that will result in practical information/models for use by colleges/universities/early intervention personnel preparation systems;
- A clear link to *Early On*® Michigan;
- A reasonable, appropriate, and specific budget;
- A demonstration of experience in conducting such research.

Requirements:

Applications/proposals may be **no longer than eight 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, June 30, 2021.

Questions:

For questions regarding the *Early On*® Faculty Grants, please contact Kari Holmberg at holmberg_k@ccresa.org, (866) 334-5437 or Christy Callahan at Callahan_c@ccresa.org, (866) 334-5437.



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