Part C Professional Development
PLC Update

The primary goal of the Part C Professional Development Peer-Learning Community (PLC) is to build connections with state personnel and programs that support professional development for early intervention and Part C providers. The PLC, which has representatives from 13 states, began in October 2019. Since then, they have been meeting every other month to:

- Identify partnership opportunities and key state contacts for Part C professional development
- Share professional development tools and resources
- Identify needs for additional tools and resources

Members have researched their own state systems to determine activities and funding streams likely to impact partnership efforts, and have shared national and state resources with each other. Two members attended the 2019 Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Conference and three submitted abstracts for the 2020 DEC Conference (now virtual and postponed until 2021). Ultimately, the PLC’s goals are to embed deaf-blind content into existing Part C professional development systems to:

- Increase the knowledge of EI providers regarding the importance of early identification and referral of infants and toddlers who are deaf-blind
- Increase the knowledge and skills of early intervention personnel to enable them to incorporate high-quality practices for infants and toddlers who are at risk for deaf-blindness or are deaf-blind into their work

The next steps for this PLC are to:

- Review and discuss guidance and strategies in NCDB’s Changing Systems: Moving Beyond Child-Specific Technical Assistance
- Create action plans that systematically address how to integrate deaf-blind content into existing professional development systems
- Refine professional development resources such as The Sooner the Better: A Framework for Training Early Intervention Practitioners on Deaf-Blindness

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