Highlights of OSEP Autism Investments: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part D

Gail R. Houle, Ph.D.

Office of Special Education Programs

US Department of Education





OSEP Mission

OSEP is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts to provide comprehensive IDEA services



IDEA Part D Discretionary Grant Program

- National activities to improve the education of children with disabilities
 - Personnel Development
 - ◆ State Improvement/Personnel Development
 - ◆ Technical Assistance and Dissemination Centers
 - ◆ Technology and Media Projects
 - ◆ Parent Training and Information



Personnel Development Projects

- Address the need for highly qualified personnel to work with infants, toddlers, or children with disabilities
 - Grants to train personnel to work with children with autism
 - Doctorate: 5 awards
 - Masters: 29 awards
 - Certificate: 2 awards



Personnel Development Projects

- The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - ◆ Increase the capacity of States to implement evidence-based practices for early identification, intervention, education, professional development, and technical assistance http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~autismPDC



Technology and Media Projects

- Appropriate technology/media developed and demonstrated to improve and implement early intervention, educational, and transitional services and results for children with disabilities and their families
 - ◆ Steppingstone grants
 - 2 awards that focus on autism



Parent Training and Information Centers

- Provide training/information to parents of children with disabilities
 - Technical Assistance for Parent Centers www.taalliance.org
 - 70 Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs)
 - 30 Community Parent Resource Centers (CPRCs)
 - 1 National,1 Military, 1 Native American, 6 Regional TA Centers



OSEP Contact Information

Gail Houle
Associate Division Director
202.245.7381
Gail.houle@ed.gov