

Update- October 2021

## State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

Planning for our new SSIP (2022-2028) continues. We have heard from a wide variety of stakeholders through Zoom sessions, surveys and our website pop-up with ideas for strategies to improve positive social-emotional skills, including social relationships, for the infants and toddlers we serve. We heard from about 60 families and at least 75 early intervention professionals. Take a look at all the [great ideas](#) we received!

Based on that stakeholder input, we have drafted four broad improvement strategies for our new SSIP:

1. Identify and implement initial and ongoing eligibility determination and assessment for service planning practices related to social-emotional development that effectively inform eligibility decisions, the child outcome summary process, IFSP development and service delivery.
2. Identify and implement evidence-based service delivery practices to promote positive social-emotional development for all eligible infants and toddlers and provide effective intervention to address delays and concerns.
3. Build a sufficient, sustainable and accessible workforce of well-trained practitioners to implement the eligibility determination, assessment for service planning, and service planning and delivery practices identified in strategies 1 and 2.
4. Use data to understand who is and is not benefiting from our efforts to improve positive social-emotional skills and social relationships, what accounts for differences and how to promote equitable outcomes.

We will be establishing State Leadership Teams, one for each of these broad improvement strategies, to work with state staff in overseeing development and implementation of that section of the SSIP. Each team will include members representing service coordinators, other service providers, local system managers, families and members of the Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council. We anticipate these teams meeting (virtually) a couple of times over the next 6 months, with other work happening by email. Meeting schedules beyond that will be established by each team. If you're interested in participating on a State Leadership Team, please contact Kyla Patterson at [k.patterson@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:k.patterson@dbhds.virginia.gov) and indicate which one of the four improvement strategies you're most interested in working to address.