

281—120.24(34CFR303) Public access to information and services.

120.24(1) *Central directory.* The early intervention system must include a central directory of information regarding the following:

- a.* Public and private early intervention services, resources and experts available in the state;
- b.* Research and demonstration projects being conducted in the state; and
- c.* Professional and other groups, including parent support groups and advocate associations, that provide assistance to eligible children and their families.

Central directory information shall be listed so as to ensure that the general public will be able to determine the nature and scope of the services and assistance available from each of the sources listed in the directory. In addition, the central directory information shall enable a parent of an eligible child to contact, by telephone or letter, any of the sources listed in the directory. The central directory shall be updated at least annually and be accessible in the language of parents or other mode of communication to the general public in each geographic region of the state, including rural areas, and in places and in a manner that ensures accessibility by a person with a disability. [34 CFR 303.162; 303.301]

120.24(2) *Public awareness.* The public shall be made aware of the Early ACCESS system and of the need to identify, locate and evaluate all eligible children from birth to the age of three years so that early intervention supports and services can be provided to meet each child's needs and those of the child's family. Comprehensive public awareness activities shall be carried out by the signatory agencies. Public awareness shall involve communication with agencies and organizations in the state that have a direct interest in early intervention including private providers, professional associations, parent groups, advocacy associations and other organizations. Public awareness activities shall include ways to inform the public about the Early ACCESS system and the child find system, including:

- a.* The purpose and scope of the system;
- b.* How to make referrals;
- c.* How to gain access to comprehensive, multidisciplinary evaluation and early intervention services; and
- d.* The central directory of available early intervention services. [34 CFR 303.164; 303.320]