

Family Education and Support (FES) Program is an additional intervention services system that helps children and young persons with disabilities beginning at age 3 to 21 years and their families to access intervention services that will:

- Enhance the child or person's development;
- Minimize the likelihood of institutionalization and maximize independent living; and
- Enhance the capacity of families to meet the needs of their child.

The regional contractor provides multidisciplinary evaluation to determine eligibility and assessment to determine the specific developmental levels and the needs for intervention services free of charge.

A child age 3 to 8 may receive non-Medicaid funded FES services if the child has been determined eligible. If the regional contractor does not have an opening in FES Program, the child is placed on a waiting list for FES and any other developmental disability service waiting list that may be applicable with the parent's written consent. Children on the waiting list receive information and referrals from the regional contractor which may include a referral to a more appropriate service. Children on the FES waiting list must also be on the 0208-waiver waiting list.

At age 8 or older, a child must be determined eligible for FES Program by the Developmental Disabilities Program's eligibility specialist.

If a child has an identified disability or developmental delay meeting the State's eligibility criteria (**Type I – established condition or Type II-measured delay**), the child may be enrolled in the FES Program with parental consent if openings are available. Available services will be tailored to meet the child's individual needs and may include:

- Assistive technology
- Audiology or hearing services
- Speech and language services
- Counseling and training for a family
- Medical services
- Nursing services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Respite

Services may also be provided to address the needs and priorities of the child's family. Family-directed services are meant to help family members understand the special needs of their child and how to enhance his or her development.

If the child age 3 through 15 years of age is eligible and the family is interested in obtaining intervention services, the team, including the family members, sit down to write an individualized plan of action for the child and family, the **Individualized Family Service Plan** or **IFSP**.



Montana Milestones Part C of the IDEA Early Intervention Program
and
Family Education and Support Program

A **Personal Support Plan (PSP)** is developed to organize and direct the delivery of intervention services and supports for persons at age 16 and up to 21 years of age enrolled in the FES Program.

The **IFSP** and **PSP** are very important documents, and parents are important members of the team that develops them. Both the IFSP and PSP are written documents outlining the intervention services that the child or person and family will receive. They must include the following:

- The child or person’s present development levels and needs;
- Family information (with the family’s agreement) including the resources, priorities, and concerns of the parents and other family members closely involved with the child or person;
- The major results or outcomes expected to be achieved for the child or person and family;
- The specific intervention services the child or person will receive;
- Where in the home or community the services will be provided;
- When and where the child or person will receive services;
- The number of days or sessions the child or person will receive each service and how long each session will last;
- Who will pay for the services;
- The name of the service coordinator overseeing the implementation of the IFSP (through age 15);
- The steps to be taken to support the child or person’s transitions to school or other environments.

Montana’s System of Payments is provided in writing to all families. It explains that the following services are provided free of charge:

- Child find services;
- Evaluations and assessments;
- The development and review of the IFSP or PSP; and
- Service coordination through age 15.

Additionally, the FES Program will access public insurance (such as Medicaid) or private insurance (with the family’s consent) **first** to pay for intervention services. If a family has a co-pay or deductible, the FES program pays for those costs.