

# Early Intervention Mediation

Conversations for Empowered Solutions



**Working Together**  
**Collaborative**  
**Flexible**  
**Neutral**  
**Empowering**



## How can it help me?

- Free for Parents
- Identify points of disagreement
- Improve communication
- Build trust, improve relationships
- Develop solutions for your child's needs

## Right to Due Process

Mediation is a due process right available to parents in the Early Intervention Program. Mediation is a voluntary process under Part C of the IDEA that brings people together to resolve disagreements.



## What is Mediation?

A mediation is a facilitated meeting to express concerns and explore solutions with the guidance of a mediator.

All parties are encouraged to actively participate in the process. The mediator helps parties to communicate and understand each other.



The focus is to reach an agreement that satisfies everyone's needs. The mediator helps parties focus on the future and to make their own decisions. The outcome is decided by the parties.

## What can be mediated?

Any time there is a disagreement including:

- Eligibility for services
- A change in services
- Request for an evaluation
- Request for reimbursement
- Modify your Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

## The Early Intervention Program (EIP)



The Early Intervention Program (EIP) is a public program for children under the age of three who are either suspected of having or be at risk for developmental delays or disabilities.

All EIP services are provided at no cost to parents. Health insurance may be used for approved services.

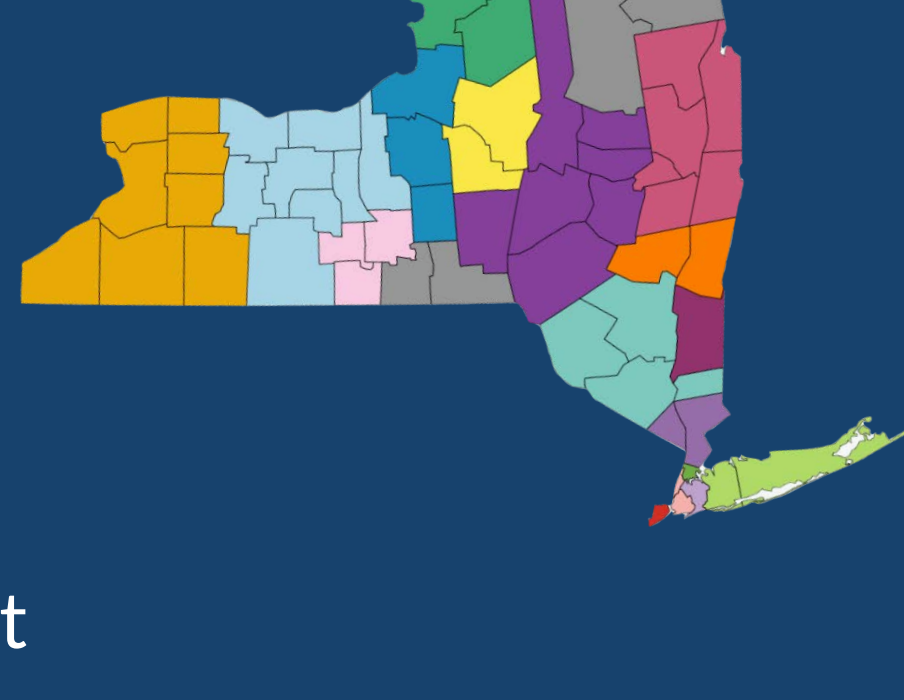
- Potentially eligible children must be referred to the county program to receive EIP services.
- A child's eligibility for the program can be determined only by state-approved evaluators under contract and all services must be authorized by the county.

If you have questions, or want more information about the Early Intervention Program's mediation process you can contact the **NYS Department of Health Bureau of Early Intervention at 518-473-7016.**

## Community Dispute Resolution Centers

The Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) are a statewide network of nonprofit organizations providing quality dialogue and dispute resolution services in their communities.

The Community Dispute Resolution Centers Program was established in 1981 by Article 21-A of the New York State Judiciary Law to provide community dispute resolution services.



Mediators must meet training and experience requirements set by Part 146 of the Rules of the Chief Administrative Judge.

### NYS Dispute Resolution Association

NYS DRA is the association of the centers and serves as the agency that conducts all mediations requested by parents in the New York State Early Intervention Program.



## Requesting Mediation

**Submit a request for mediation to your early intervention official.**

Request Mediation Form

A sample request form is located at the NYSDOH Bureau of Early Intervention website under:



Sample Letters in Early Intervention Steps: A Parent's Guide to the early Intervention Program at <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/0532/>

Scan Here

## The Process



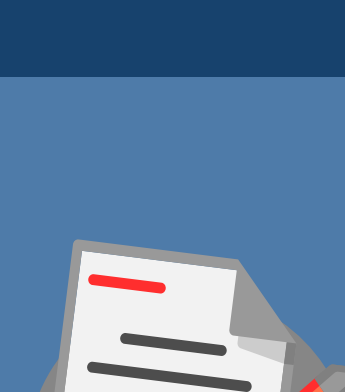
Once a request for mediation is submitted, the EI official will submit the request to the center.



A center will contact you to schedule a session within 30 days of the request to be held at a convenient place and time.



The meeting is held to discuss concerns and find solutions. The mediator facilitates the discussion. Mediation is voluntary and confidential.



If a mutual agreement is reached, an agreement is drafted and the service coordinator shall ensure that the terms of services agreed to in the final agreement is added to the Individualized Family Service Plan.

## Contact Us



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