

## Supplement 4.

### Performance guidelines for the implementation of the Federal Fund for Early Childhood Intervention

The *Federal Foundation for Early Childhood Intervention* was established on 1 January 2018 as a mandatory federal programme in Germany with an annual budget of approximately €51 million (US\$ 59.1 million). With this, the *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Fund for Early Childhood Intervention*<sup>1</sup> came into effect. This set of performance guidelines was developed to inform the selection of activities at municipal level for funding, and were developed with inputs from all 16 German Federal States and the national government. They are informed by research results (see table 3 and box 3 for examples). The performance guidelines are outline in the table below.

#### 1. Securing networks for ECI

##### *Minimum requirements:*

- Network-coordinators have a professional qualification
- There is consensus on quality standards regarding the intersectoral collaboration in the networks; there are procedures for concrete collaboration at family level
- Meetings of the network are conducted and coordinated regularly
- The municipality supports the participatory further development of ECI measures in the community, based on families' needs

#### 2. Psychosocial support of families through specific ECI measures\*

##### *Minimum requirements for the deployment of professionals:*

- Early childhood professionals are engaged in a network for ECI
- Health professionals have a qualification in accordance with the "Minimum requirements for the qualification of family midwives and nurses" specified by NZFH and the states or are being qualified accordingly; professionals' competencies are in line with the NZFH competence profile

##### *Minimum requirements for the deployment of volunteers:*

- Volunteers are engaged in a network for ECI
- Volunteers are supported by specially trained professionals
- There is quality control at interfaces with both professional work and further support measures

*Measures and services offered by qualified professionals who work cross-sectorally (i.e. at the interface of different social benefit systems (Sozialleistungssysteme)):*

- “Pilotage systems” facilitating system transition (“Lotsensysteme”), offering interdisciplinary assessments of need, and mediation of ECI measures
- Quality assurance of ECI measures as well as qualification of professionals who work cross-sectorally (e.g. midwives and nurses with special qualifications related to psychosocial support)
- Measures for the structural involvement of stakeholders and institutions, especially from the health sector within the interprofessional cooperation framework (e.g. interprofessional quality circles)
- Offers that provide low-threshold access for families, in particular in difficult circumstances, and that represent a door opener to the ECI

### **3. Testing innovative measures and implementing successful models**

- Space should continue to be created for innovations and further development of access routes and specific ECI measures. These should fill the gaps in the care of children from families in difficult circumstances, which cannot be met by the conventional supply systems and allow the possibility to react to social developments.

---

<sup>1</sup> Federal Foundation for Early Childhood Intervention and Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth (BMFSFJ). Leistungsleitlinien. Bundesstiftung Frühe Hilfen zur Umsetzung des Fonds Frühe Hilfen [Performance Guidelines. Federal Foundation for Early Childhood Intervention for the implementation of the Federal Fund for Early Childhood Intervention]. Federal Foundation for Early Childhood Intervention and BMFSFJ: 2018. [German]  
[https://www.fruehehilfen.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/fruehehilfen.de/pdf/Leistungsleitlinien-Bundesstiftung-Fruehe-Hilfen.pdf](https://www.fruehehilfen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/fruehehilfen.de/pdf/Leistungsleitlinien-Bundesstiftung-Fruehe-Hilfen.pdf)