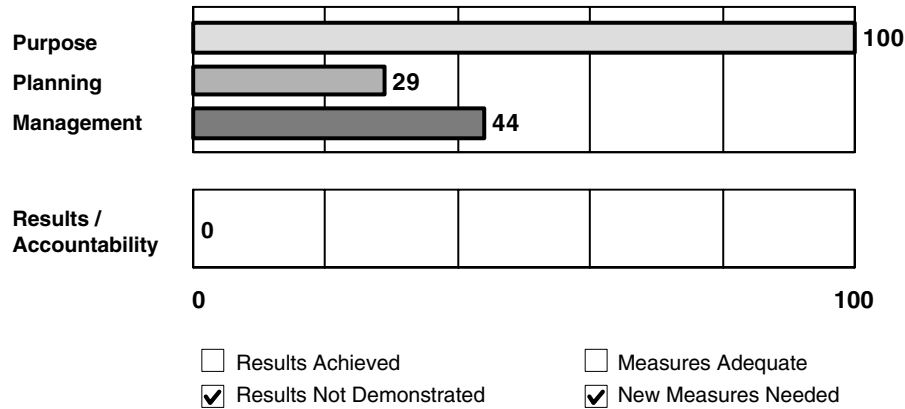


Program: IDEA Grants for Infants and Families

Agency: Department of Education

Bureau: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Long-term and Annual Measure: Percentage of children participating in the Infants and Families program who demonstrate improved and sustained functional abilities, including progress in areas such as social, emotional, cognitive, communication and physical development (Proposed measure with no data available; targets under development) | | | |
| Long-term and Annual Measure: Percentage of participating families that report that early intervention services have increased their family's capacity to enhance their child's development (Targets under development) | 1997 | | 72% |
| | 2001 | 80% | 73% |
| | | | |
| Long-term and Annual Measure: Percentage of children ages birth through 2 who are served under the Infants and Families program as a proportion of the general population in this age range (Targets under development) | 1999 | 1.6% | 1.8% |
| | 2000 | 1.8% | 2.0% |
| | | | |

Rating: Results Not Demonstrated

Program Type: Block / Formula Grants

Program Summary:

The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Grants for Infants and Families program provides grants to states to identify disabilities in infants and toddlers (ages 0-2), and provide early intervention services for them and their families.

The PART assessment found:

1. The purpose of the IDEA Infants and Families program is clear and unambiguous, and serves a national need. There is no other program that focuses exclusively on the developmental needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities. A major purpose of this program is to coordinate resources from other sources (public and private).
2. The program has annual process performance measures, but no annual or long term outcome-oriented performance targets or data, in particular for student abilities outcomes. Thus, this program cannot demonstrate the level of impact it has on infants and toddlers. This is the primary reason it scores a zero for "Results." While annual data shows that this program has met its process goals, such as the number of children served, there are no data on the key measure of program performance -- the educational and developmental outcomes of infants and toddlers served through this program. A longitudinal study is underway that should provide some information on the short and long-term outcomes of children with disabilities served through this program.
3. The Department has collaborated well with other Federal programs, and manages some other components of the program well. However, the Department of Education should continue to increase the program's focus on improving child outcomes and holding states accountable for performance.
4. In the case of some states, program funds are not obligated in a timely manner (while this was a significant problem in the past, the Department has worked hard to reduce the number of states carrying forward large unobligated balances).

To address these findings, the Department will:

1. Work with Congress on the upcoming IDEA reauthorization, which should increase state accountability for child outcomes. Even with no direct evidence that this program improves outcomes, the \$10 million increase requested in the 2004 Budget will help states meet their responsibilities under the IDEA.
2. Establish long-term outcome-oriented objectives, and develop a strategy to collect annual performance data in a timely manner.
3. Work with Congress on the IDEA reauthorization to increase the Act's focus on results, and reduce unnecessary regulatory and administrative burden.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

| <u>2002 Actual</u> | <u>2003 Estimate</u> | <u>2004 Estimate</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 417 | 437 | 447 |