



CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Community Populations 1,000 – 5,000 (PL2)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

C2.1	Establish a community coalition of at least 7 members comprised of parents, early childhood educators, health care providers, and other community representatives. A roster of coalition members must be maintained in the community.
C2.2	Adopt a Coalition Charter that defines the coalition membership process, purpose, and expectations
C2.3	Designate a certification manager for the community.
C2.4	Conduct a community needs assessment of child care, health, family and community resources.
C2.5	Conduct quarterly coalition meetings and maintain meeting minutes. Coalition meetings require a quorum of fifty percent (50%) participation.
C2.6	Conduct a town hall meeting annually to present the community's evaluation results, action plan for attaining certification, and progress towards attaining certification. Solicit feedback from the community to be used to revise the community action plan.
C2.7	Send a representative to the quarterly state Excel By 5 collaboration meetings to report on the community's efforts to attain certification. Disseminate information from the quarterly state Excel By 5 collaboration meetings to the community coalition.
C2.8	Hold at least two (2) community-wide events with an early childhood focus. Document preparations, publicity, activities, and participation
C2.9	Create and maintain a communication plan for the promotion of community events, activities, and resources.

FAMILY AND PARENT SUPPORT

F2.1	Designate a local agency or program to provide information to parents of children ages 0-5 about community resources and services including early care and education providers, health care services, social services, family education services, and family support services.
F2.2	Create and distribute information packets to parents of newborns or parents of children 0-5 relocating to the community. Information packets should contain materials about promoting positive early childhood development (such as developmental milestones and indicators of quality child care), community offerings (such as resource centers and family education activities), and bounce-back cards for getting additional information.
F2.3	Provide family education opportunities at least quarterly to address family needs identified in the community. Topics are to include but are not limited to the following: ages and stages of development, parental advocacy, early learning guidelines



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EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

E2.1	Hold at least two (2) Educational Partners meetings annually. Attendees must include representatives from the community school system(s), Head Start centers, <u>and</u> early care centers or home providers.
E2.2	Designate a local agency or program to provide information about state licensure requirements, community resources and services (health care services, social services, family education services, and family support services), and local professional development opportunities to early care center and home providers quarterly.
E2.3	Demonstrate that twenty percent (20%) or more of licensed early care centers have twenty percent (20%) or more educational staff who have 17 or more professional development hours (as defined by the MS Dept of Health) per licensure year.
E2.4	Demonstrate that twenty percent (20%) or more of non-licensed home early care providers identified by the MS State Extension Service earn professional development hours (as defined by the Mississippi Department of Health) each licensure year.
E2.5	Demonstrate that twenty percent (20%) or more of licensed childcare centers have twenty percent (20%) or more “highly trained” educational staff. A staff member is considered “highly trained” if s/he currently holds a Child Development Associate (CDA) or college degree (Associate, Bachelors, or Masters) in early childhood, education, or related field
E2.6	Demonstrate that forty percent (40%) or more of licensed early care centers participated in an environmental evaluation using the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-R (ECERS-R) or the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-R (ITERS-R).
E2.7	Demonstrate that twenty percent (20%) or more of home care providers identified by MSU Extension Service participated in an environmental evaluation using the Family Day Care Rating Scale (FDCRS).

HEALTH AND SAFETY

H2.1	Identify and provide community education about two (2) or more health and safety issues that pose concerns for children ages 0-5 in the community.
H2.2	Select and provide community education about one (1) or more health and safety issues from the following list: immunization, health checkups, common symptom recognition, first aid, dental hygiene, transportation safety, home safety, poison prevention, food safety, and nutrition education.
H2.3	Provide community education about early intervention services (speech therapy, cognitive, physical, mental health, etc.) available through First Steps (ages 0-3) or the local school district (ages 3-5).
H2.4	Designate a local agency or program to assist families and early care providers in making referrals of children ages 0-5 to early intervention services available through First Steps (ages 0-3) or the local school district (ages 3-5).