

## Phase III State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

### Questions and Answers for Indicators B-17 and C-11

1. **Question:** How did OSEP review States' Phase II submissions?

**Answer:** The Performance Accountability Implementation Team developed a review tool to promote consistency for scope and content across the reviewers. The review tool was based on the measurement language for the B17/C11 indicator and drew from guidance and technical assistance documents provided by OSEP and the TA centers. The PAIT reviewer completed the tool and discussed with the state lead any questions or considerations for follow-up with the state.

2. **Question:** Are States required to make changes to the Phase II SSIP if OSEP identifies areas of weakness or gaps?

**Answer:** States are not required to resubmit the Phase II SSIP based on OSEP's feedback. However, States are strongly encouraged to incorporate updated information into their Phase III submission to address weaknesses/gaps that were identified through OSEP's Phase II review. States are also strongly encouraged to utilize the technical assistance resources available as they implement their SSIP.

3. **Question:** When should a State provide Phase II updates and revisions to OSEP?

**Answer:** Phase II updates cannot be formally shared with OSEP via GRADS until the time of their Phase III submission due on April 3, 2017. However, States are free to update or revise their Phase II at any time and post the updated document to their State website. In which case, States are encouraged to notify their State lead of posting. All updates or revisions made to Phase II should be summarized and justified with a supporting rationale and included in the Phase III submission.

4. **Question:** What are the implications for States that submit a Phase II SSIP that is missing elements?

**Answer:** In October 2016, the SSIP will be an area for designations under OSEP's Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) process. Information from OSEP's review of each State's Phase II SSIP submission will be included as a factor in a State's designation for universal, targeted or intensive engagement. States that submitted inadequately developed Phase II plans will be identified as needing targeted or intensive support.

5. **Question:** Following the initial feedback call, are there specific expectations for follow-up calls/TA between now and October 1<sup>st</sup>?

**Answer:** While there is not a standard expectation with regard to the frequency or type of follow-up, follow-up should be mutually agreed upon between the State and OSEP. The initial feedback call should conclude with agreed upon next steps based on OSEP's recommendations and any TA priorities or needs identified by the State.

6. **Question:** What TA or guidance will be provided to States for Phase III between August 2016 and April 2017?

**Answer:** All states will be provided universal technical assistance via telephone calls with the state lead/state team, OSEP's monthly national TA call, and notification of newly developed webinars and resources materials. OSEP will develop and release to states by late October 2016 a Phase III Guidance and Review Tool and Phase III writing guide/organizational outline. Additional resources will be developed in response to State identified needs and requests. A Phase III Process Guide was developed by the TA centers and reviewed by OSEP. It is posted as a pdf to the ECTA website at

[http://ectacenter.org/topics/ssip/ssip\\_phase3.asp](http://ectacenter.org/topics/ssip/ssip_phase3.asp).

A measurement and data brief as well as webinars on progress monitoring are under development in response to the NCSI Part B and Part C Measurement Thought Leader Forums.

7. **Question:** Was the Phase II SSIP included in the State's 2016 annual determination?

**Answer:** No. The FFY 2014 data provided in the Phase II SSIP (Indicator B-17/C-11 of the States' FFY 2014 SPP/APR) submitted on April 1, 2016 was not included in the Results-Driven Accountability Matrix that was the basis for States' 2016 annual determinations.

8. **Question:** Will the SSIP submission due April 3, 2017 be included in the 2017 SPP/APR determination?

**Answer:** The FFY 2015 data provided in the SSIP (Indicator B-17/C-11 of the States' FFY 2015 SPP/APR) will not be included as a stand-alone factor in the Results Driven Accountability Matrix that will be the basis for States' 2017 annual determinations. However, whether a State provides valid and reliable data and submits its FFY 2015 SSIP in a timely manner may be factored into the scoring of the State's Timely and Accurate Data Rubric, which would have an impact on a State's annual determination.

9. **Question:** Will OSEP provide guidance to State's or create a forum for discussions regarding recommendations for aligning SPDGs and SSIPs?

**Answer:** OSEP currently runs an SSIP/SPDG Community of Practice through the Sig Network. Any SPDG grantee that has aligned or is interested in aligning their SPDG work with their SSIP is invited to participate. Information will be provided in GRADS to direct interested parties to information about the community and contact information. OSEP will also set up conversations between a state that is already aligned and a state that is interested in aligning to help facilitate the work.

10. **Question:** Will OSEP provide guidance to States that are facing systems change issues that may lead to challenges in meeting SSIP timelines?

**Answer:** The Phase III submission is due on April 3, 2017 and extensions will not be granted. States should notify their state leads if there are concerns about meeting the indicator timelines for submission. OSEP will provide support through its Differentiated Monitoring and Support engagement designation process for states that struggle to meet state-established SSIP timelines for implementation and evaluation of the activities and outcomes described in the Phase II submission.

11. **Question:** Is there is an expectation that states provide specific information about funding for improvement strategies in their Phase III reports? If so, will the OSEP language for Phase III, B-17 and C-11, include any specific requirements for reporting on funding, a requirement to submit a budget, etc.?

**Answer:** OSEP does not expect states to submit a budget or specify funding resources as part of the Phase III submissions. Some states identified finance as a barrier to the SSIP work and included finance or fiscal resources as part of its infrastructure improvement activities. OSEP expects states to report on the status of improvement efforts relative to finance if that was a priority identified by the state. OSEP will not review or approve budgets specific to the SSIP.