

University of Arkansas – Arkansas Centers for Rural Education in Autism and Related Disabilities

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES AS RELATED TO THE 2015-17 APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

One out of sixty five children in the state of Arkansas will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. Early and intense intervention can change the trajectory of the disorder for many children. However, children living in rural areas have less access to services. In this project, 5 centers across the state of Arkansas will be developed to meet the unique needs of families who have children with autism.

The centers will begin with a focus on autism spectrum disorders. Once the center is established related disabilities will be included. Development areas have been identified to serve the community and training university students to become autism professionals. The identified areas are:

- Development of a state center to provide autism training and support across Arkansas
- Development of four satellite centers across the state (AHECs, Universities, Etc.)
- Provide training to professionals and families across the lifespan.
- Provide consultation to service providers and families
- Investment in a center that serves all agencies and families

Investment in best practices for education and supporting people with autism across the lifespan, results in reduced lifetime costs for support.

The sustainability of the project is based upon grant funds for development of infrastructure at both the state and federal level. Once the infrastructure is developed, research grants will be sought at both the state and federal level. Few rural centers for children with autism exist. This provides us with the opportunity to develop systems to reach rural Americans. The state of Arkansas can become a leader in the development and research of autism and telemedicine.

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The following outlines the project development over the course of three years:

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Year 1 Focus: Center infrastructure and training in EVB basics	Year 2 Expand and Increase Capacity: EVB and Curricula Options	Year 3 Increase Capacity and Expand to Include Curricula options
<p>Q1 Set up Centers in Central and NW Arkansas Hire staff Develop center procedures Develop yearly training schedule Begin Development of training materials Identify training needs with community-based organizations Order materials for the lending library</p>	<p>Q1 Continue Providing Service in Central and NW Expand training to include curricula options (subcontracts if needed) Update lending library materials</p> <p>In SE, SW, and NE: Train Case Coordinators on EVB Train Case Coordinators on procedures Train ASD Specialists in procedures Professional Development for ASD Specialists if needed Develop training schedule with community-based organizations Distribute information regarding the center services</p>	<p>Q1 Continue to Provide Service across the state Professional Development for staff as needed Subcontract with specific curricula training Update lending library materials</p>

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	Order Lending library materials	
<p>Q2 Pilot training materials with case coordinators Train Case Coordinators on EVB Train Case Coordinators on procedures Train ASD Specialists in procedures Professional Development for ASD Specialists if needed Develop training schedule with community-based organizations Distribute information regarding the center services Set up lending library system and begin lending. Set up partnership with AAROC</p>	<p>Q2 Continue Providing Services in Central and NW Arkansas In SE, SW, and NE: Begin providing developmental screenings and referrals Begin providing case coordination for families in central and NW Arkansas Begin community-based trainings for families and professionals Begin community based organization trainings Set up lending libraries and begin lending Expand AAROC</p>	<p>Q2 Continue to provide services across the state</p>

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<p>Q3 Begin providing developmental screenings and referrals Begin providing case coordination for families in central and NW Arkansas Begin community-based trainings for families and professionals Begin community based organization trainings Identify office space in NE, SE, SW Arkansas</p>	<p>Q3 Provide Service across the state</p>	<p>Q3 Continue to provide services across the state</p>
<p>Q4 Continue providing service Evaluate and adjust service delivery model Evaluate needs and expand training topics Secure Office space to expand Hire staff in NE, SE, and SW Arkansas</p>	<p>Q4 Continue providing service Evaluate and adjust service delivery model Evaluate needs and expand training topics Assess curricular training needs</p>	<p>Q4 Continue providing service Evaluate and adjust service delivery model Evaluate needs and expand training topics</p>