Appendix XIV: Validating the ID&R System through Re-interviewing

Introduction

Administrators should review OME’s Technical Assistance Guide on Re-interviewing (<https://results-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/tools/mep-reinterviewing-guide-dec-10.pdf>) to gain a full understanding of their quality control responsibilities under the MEP statute and regulations*.* It is important that each state have a thoughtful quality control system that tests the validity and reliability of child eligibility determinations. Re-interviewing parents, guardians and youth from a representative sample of COEs on an annual basis must be a part of an SEA’s quality control system. SEAs are required to use independent re-interviewers to perform this task at least once every three years. This helps validate that the data on the COEs are accurate and that eligibility determinations are correct. (NRG, Ch. III, A17)

Re-interviewing

Required by regulations [34 CFR § 200.89(a)(2)], re-interviewing is the process of checking the eligibility determinations recorded on your state’s COEs. It involves independently interviewing families and checking each criterion that makes children eligible for the MEP. Re-interviewing allows confirmation of your state's eligibility determinations and the accuracy of the numbers of migratory children that your state reports. It also helps to identify and fix any problems in your state's ID&R process, and depending on the type of re-interviewing implemented, it can help to establish a discrepancy or defect rate for monitoring and funding purposes. There are two types of re-interviewing: prospective and retrospective.

Prospective Re-interviewing

Prospective re-interviewing is a process that allows for the identification of problems early on so they can be quickly corrected. Prospective re-interviewing is

* completed before the state submits child counts every year;
* conducted annually;
* at least once every three years, conducted by an independent reviewer;
* performed on the current year’s identified migratory children;
* implemented, ideally, on a rolling basis and as soon as possible after recruiters complete COEs;
* representative of all determinations made in the state for the year, although it may also focus on areas the state anticipates will have problems (e.g., new recruiters, high risk types of moves, work sites that have both year-round and temporary employment); and
* designed to provide an early warning of problems that exist or may develop with the eligibility determination process so that states can take action to find and fix them and can be used to determine a discrepancy rate.

Retrospective Re-interviewing

Retrospective re-interviewing establishes valid and reliable defect rates that measure the quality of a state’s eligibility determinations for an entire child count year (i.e., eligibility determinations made over the course of a three-year period). Using this information, a state can determine the accuracy of a prior year’s child count and, if necessary, revise downward its previously submitted child counts.

Retrospective re-interviewing is

* undertaken when a state (or OME) suspects a problem is affecting the state's child identification or when the state needs to establish a defect rate;
* performed on a prior year’s eligible children (whose numbers have already been reported);
* representative of all eligible children in the child count from the designated year;
* designed to establish a reliable and valid defect rate and to identify the reasons for defects in eligibility determinations; and
* is capable of directly influencing a state's funding allocations.

As mentioned above, state administrators are responsible for complying with all MEP quality control requirements.