



## Illinois Intervener Training Program Overview

The Illinois Intervener Training Program is a free, hybrid (online and in-class coaching) program designed to:

- Train paraprofessionals already assigned to work with students, age 3-19 years, who are on the Project Reach Child Count, and
- Support successful trainees (intervener candidates) through the online portfolio process so that they can obtain the national credential, and then apply for the Illinois Deaf-Blind Intervener approval.

The program requires that the intervener candidate's administration, school colleagues, and student's family support and consent to the training and the creation of a credentialing portfolio, in writing. Both the training and the portfolio will require that photographs and video be taken of the focus student and intervener working together. As appropriate, student consent will also be acquired.

In return, Project Reach will not charge for the any of training services. The training includes:

- An online course of study: The study will use the *Open Hands, Open Access (OHOA) Deaf-Blind Intervener Learning Modules*. The specific modules selected will vary by candidate/focus student, but must be broad enough to provide overall content on DeafBlindness and expose intervener candidates to the all knowledge and skill expectations contained in the Council for Exceptional Children's (CEC) standards. Assignments will create items the intervener candidate may want to use in their future portfolio.
- Meetings with Project Reach coach: Project Reach Illinois DeafBlind Services will provide meetings (face to face and distance) with the candidate, as well as coaching and consultation in the intervener candidate's classroom (a minimum of three observations to document skill acquisition and alignment with CEC standards).
- Portfolio support from Project Reach: When training is completed, Project Reach will mentor the intervener candidates and they develop an online portfolio using the National Intervener Certification E-Portfolio System. Opening a portfolio account currently costs \$75. The portfolio system is open to the candidate for one year, but with mentoring it is anticipated that candidates can complete a portfolio within four to six months because some artifacts have already been collected during training.
- Support during approval: After certification is obtained, Project Reach will help intervener candidates complete the Illinois State Board of Education Intervener approval process. **ONCE APPROVED, THEY CAN PROVIDE INTERVENTION AS A RELATED SERVICE IN ILLINOIS. THE ENTIRE PROCESS CAN TAKE 18 – 24 MONTHS.**

Please see the sample Training Syllabus below.

Project Reach Intervener Candidate Sample Training Program Syllabus.




Flex is allowed for months with holiday/vacation weeks/etc.

MONTH	ONLINE CONTENT	MEETINGS	NICE PORTFOLIO	IL APPROVAL	OTHER
1	OHOA Welcome and Orientation  Module 1: Overview of Deaf-Blindness and Instructional Strategies	Introductory online meeting: Discuss the modules, answer overall questions  BASELINE OBSERVATION VISIT	Discuss CEC Standards  File observation report to consider including in portfolio	NA	OHOA Module host and coach may not be the same person, but the two people will be in close communication. DURING ALL MODULES, FILE HOMEWORK PRODUCTS ELECTRONICALLY TO CONSIDER INCLUDING IN PORTFOLIO
2	Module 2: The Sensory System, The Brain, and Learning  Module 3: The Role of Interveners in Educational Settings	Coach/Mentor available by phone/web between face-to-face visits	NA	NA	
3	Module 11: Intervener Strategies	↓	NA	NA	
4	Module 4: Building Trusted Relationships and Positive Self-Image	↓	NA	NA	

5	Module 7: Emergent Communication	MIDPOINT OBSERVATION VISIT  ↓	File observation report to consider including in portfolio	NA	DURING ALL MODULES, FILE HOMEWORK PRODUCTS ELECTRONICALLY TO CONSIDER INCLUDING IN PORTFOLIO
6	Module 26: Touch for Connection and Communication  Module 9: Routines	↓	NA	NA	
7	Module 13: Calendars  Module 21: Sexuality	Coach/Mentor available by phone/web between face-to-face visits	NA	NA	
8	Module 14: Introduction to Orientation and Mobility		NA	NA	
9	CHOOSE ONE: Behavior (23) or Social Skills and Peer Relationships (17)	↓	Discuss NICE Process	NA	

10	CHOOSE ONE: Introduction to Sign Language and Braille (22), or Maximizing Vision and Hearing (12)		↓	NA	
11	CHOOSE ONE: Self-Determination (16) , or Transition to Adulthood (24)	FINAL OBSERVATION VIST	↓	NA	DURING ALL MODULES, FILE HOMEWORK PRODUCTS ELECTRONICALLY TO CONSIDER INCLUDING IN PORTFOLIO
12	Module 18: Collaborative Teaming OHOA Module catch up, if needed	↓	Consider applying for NICE, completing NICE Modules and paperwork	NA	
13	Module 20: Values, Ethics, & Professionalism OHOA Module catch up, if needed	Coach supports portfolio construction, supports photography and videotaping if needed	Consider applying for NICE, completing NICE Modules and paperwork OR Begin portfolio construction	NA	

14	May complete Modules or sections of Modules as self-study, if desired ↓	↓	Construct portfolio ↓	NA	
15				NA	
16				NA	
17	May complete Modules or sections of Modules as self-study, if desired ↓	Coach supports portfolio construction, supports photography videotaping if needed	Construct/Submit Portfolio	NA	
18		Coach helps with portfolio checklist	Submit Portfolio	NA	
19		↓	↓	When certification received, apply for approval	
20		↓	↓	↓	
21		Coach helps with approval application		↓	Once approval is received, candidate can be listed as “intervener” on IEP

22		Coach helps with approval application 		When certification received, apply for approval 	Once approval is received, candidate can be listed as "intervener" on IEP 
23					
24					