FIRST STEPS PARENTS (CURRENT AND FORMER):

First Steps, Indiana’s early intervention system, and its Interagency Coordinating Council on Infants and Toddlers (ICC) need your help. We are recruiting parents of children with disabilities who have experience with First Steps to serve on the ICC.

What is the ICC?
The purpose of the ICC is to advise and assist First Steps and the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) in developing, implementing, and promoting a program of family-centered early intervention services for all eligible infants, toddlers and their families. The Governor appoints all parent members of the ICC for three year terms.

Why is it important for parents like me to serve?
You know what it feels like to have a child with a disability. You know what it feels like to have early intervention professionals in your home, working with you and your child. You probably have opinions about what worked well and what could have worked better. Your perspective is very important and one that is often not heard when professionals discuss early intervention. As the ICC works with the State to make program changes, family input is an integral part of the process.

What would I be asked to do?
- Attend quarterly meetings of the full Council in Indianapolis (lunch is provided)
- Serve on at least one committee or work group of the ICC; workgroups usually meet before or after a full Council meeting or via email
- Respond to email communications regarding the ICC
- Contribute information and your unique perspective regarding issues that impact First Steps

Would I be reimbursed for attending?
All parent members are eligible to receive compensation and reimbursement of expenses for serving on the ICC. Currently, family members are eligible to receive a $100 stipend for each full-day (more than four hours) meeting they attend. Also, family members are reimbursed for travel expenses for driving to Indianapolis to attend the quarterly meetings.

Am I eligible to apply?
You must be a parent/guardian of a child who has received First Steps services, now or in the past. Also, your child must be 12 years of age or less. Minority parents and parents of infants and toddlers currently receiving First Steps are especially encouraged to apply. If you apply, you may be contacted by the Governor’s office and a limited background check will be completed.

How do I apply?
To apply, please complete the attached survey and email to Katie Herron at kgherron@indiana.edu. If you have questions about the ICC or the application process, please email or call Katie Herron at 812-855-6471.