



The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

State Structures for Part C Service Provision

Anne Lucas, TA Specialist
Joicey Hurth, Associate Director

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- States have various infrastructures for providing early intervention services and ensuring accountability of service providers

Regardless of the infrastructure used, states must ensure the following:

- Sufficient service providers are available
- All sources of revenue are maximized
- All public and private service providers have competencies and the necessary T & TA supports to provide quality service
- Accountability, oversight and monitoring for compliance and quality practices is conducted for all providers

There are two main provider structures:

- Unitary Provider Structure
- Public-Private Provider Structure
(including 3 different approaches)

Unitary Provider Structure

- Used by only a few states and territories with very small numbers of potentially eligible children (e.g., DC, VI, American Samoa, Guam, CMNI)
- Operates like one early intervention program/agency would function in larger states

Public Private Partnership Structures

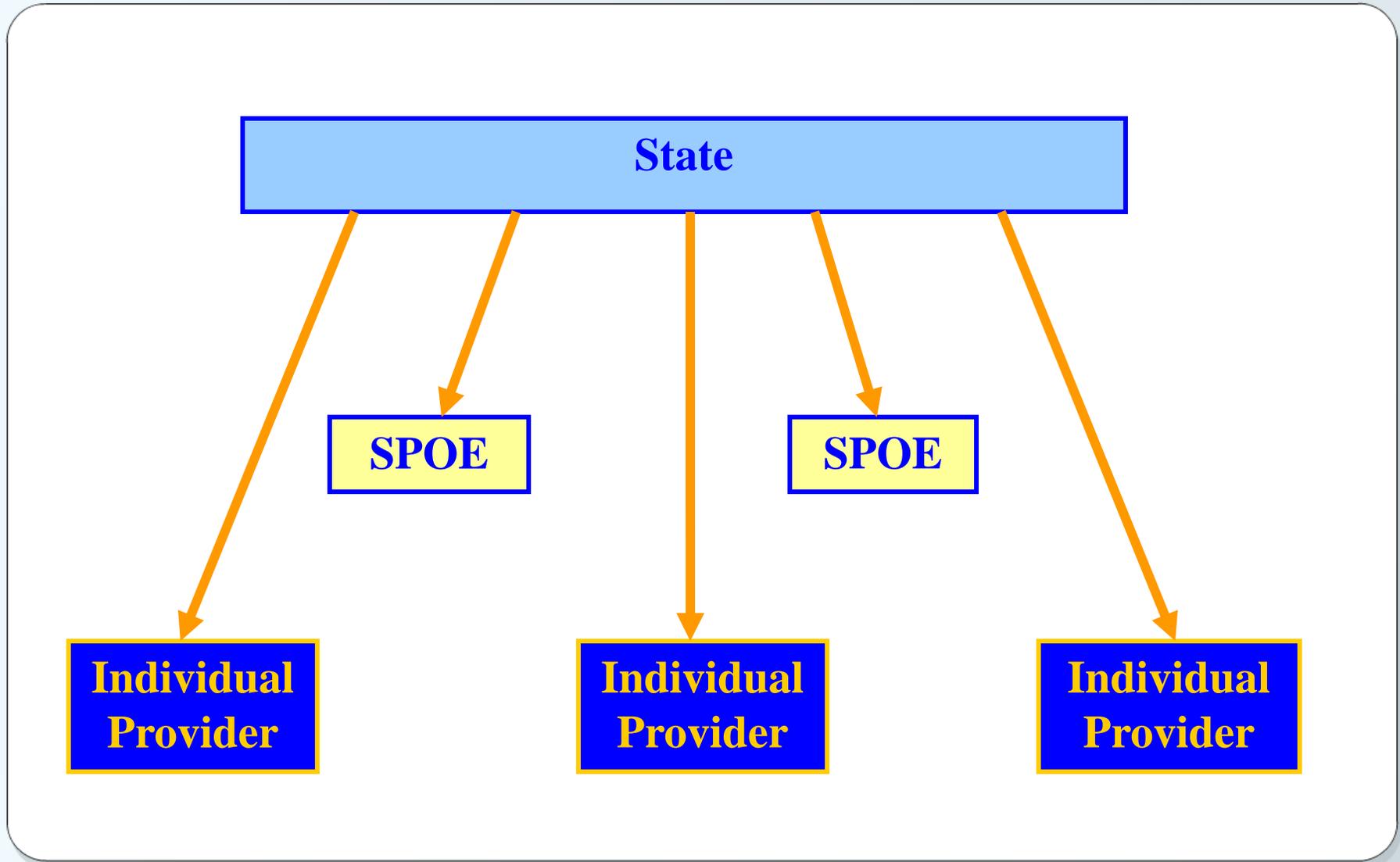
- Most states have developed public-private partnerships in the provision of EI Services
- Each state's structure has its own unique characteristics but fall within 3 main approaches
 - Individual Provider Approach
 - Provider Agency (Program) Approach
 - Regional (District/Local) Administrative Approach

- The state establishes individual provider contracts/agreements with independent providers (or provider groups).
- The state:
 - Sets criteria for minimum qualifications of service providers
 - Requires providers to participate in required state training
 - Maintains a current listing of approved providers for use by parents and service coordinators in arranging service delivery

- Usually includes regional or local agencies (SPOE) in specified areas of the state that:
 - Serve as a point of entry
 - Conduct initial evaluation/assessment
 - Provide service coordination
 - Oversee implementation of the IFSP by state approved independent individual service providers

- Funding arrangements:
 - Generally includes a fee for services
 - Providers are usually reimbursed following authorization and provision of services
 - Some states require providers to bill for services but in other states a centralized billing office pays the providers and then bills the appropriate funding source

Individual Provider Approach



- State examples:
 - Indiana
 - Illinois
 - Missouri
 - West Virginia
 - Georgia

- The state selects and approves agencies/programs, usually through a RFP or an application process that outlines standards or requirements that must be met (multiple agencies/programs within a region may apply)

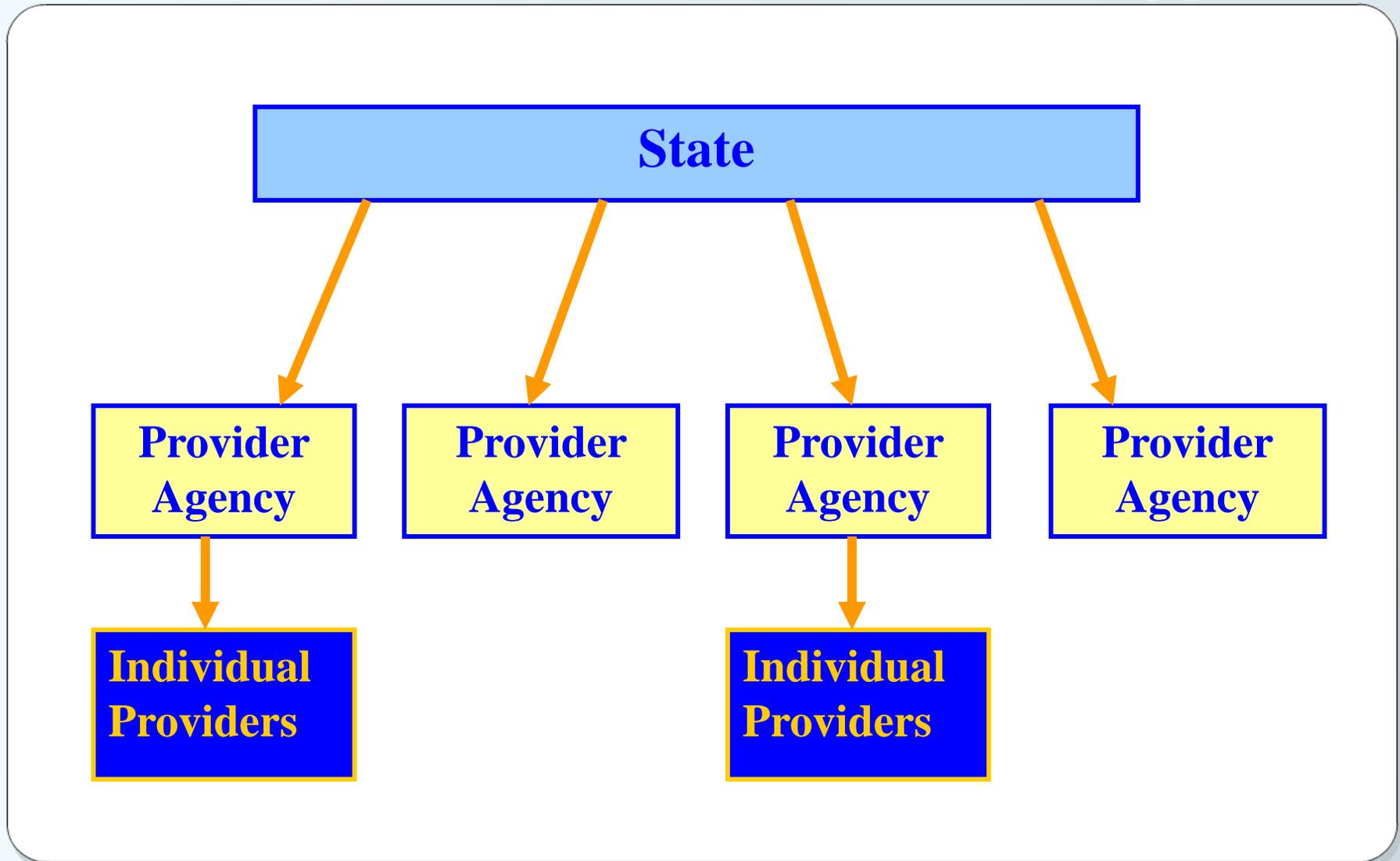
- Approved agencies/programs:
 - Are responsible for service provision in a specific region/area of the state
 - Hire and/or contract with personnel to ensure that all services for children and families are available in their designated coverage area

- Funding arrangements:
 - In some states, provider agency (program) receives funding up front
 - In other states, provider agency (program) are reimbursed on a fee for service basis

- Several states (RI, MA) have a program certification process, including a set of standards that programs must meet in order to be an approved EI provider agency

Note: The standards usually mirror or are the state's Part C procedures

Provider Agency (Program) Approach



- State examples:
 - Texas
 - Connecticut
 - Rhode Island
 - Massachusetts
 - Wyoming

Regional (District/Local) Administrative Approach

- Combination of Individual Provider and Provider Agency (Program) Approaches
- Typically, the state contracts with regional or local agencies (e.g., local lead agency) to coordinate services in a specified area of the state (in some states the regional or local agencies are counterparts to the state lead agency)

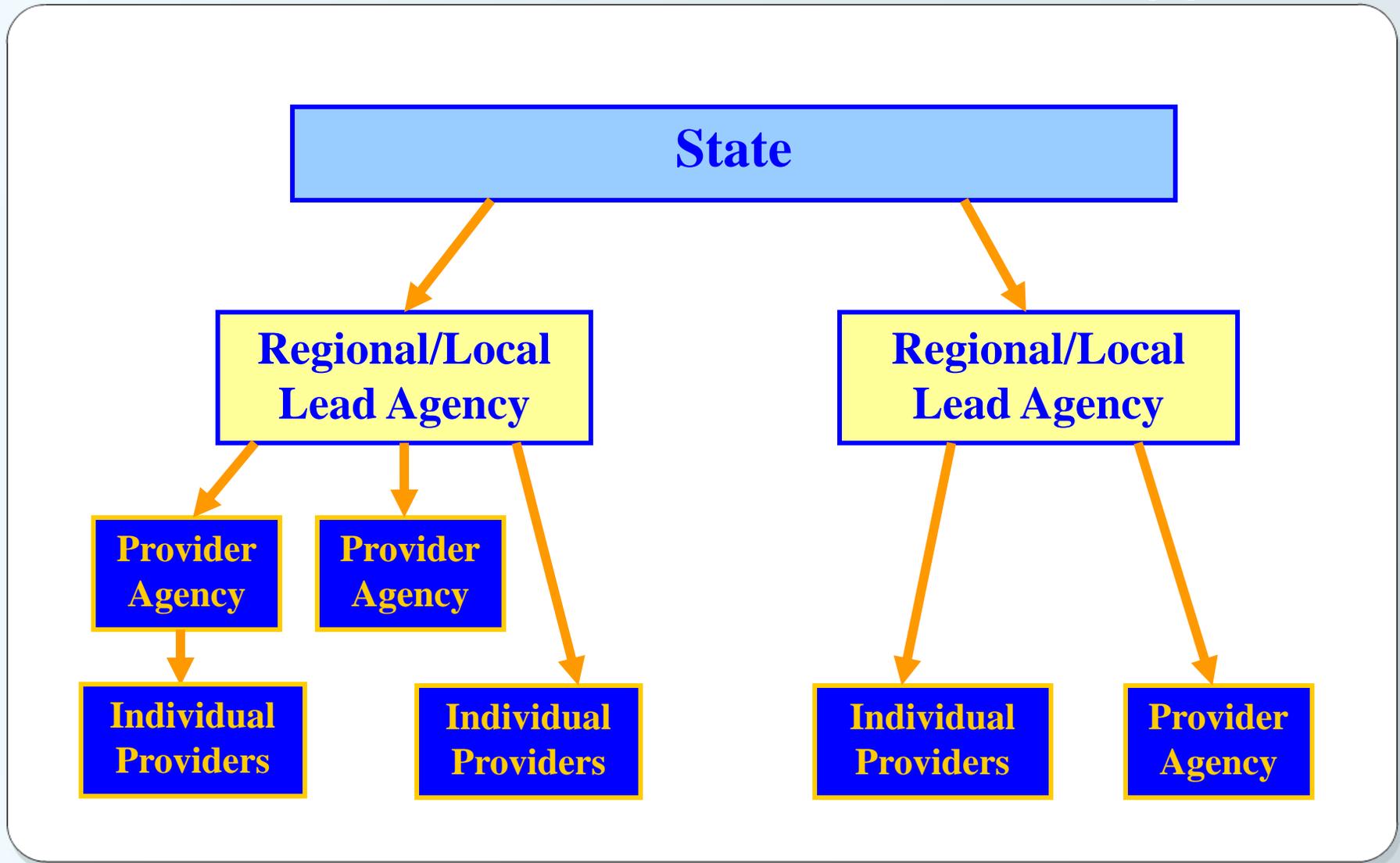
Regional (District/Local) Administrative Approach

- The regional or local agencies usually do the following:
 - Contract with or develop agreements with various individual service providers or service provider agencies to provide EI services in their specified area of the state
 - Hire personnel to carry out some of the service delivery responsibilities including:
 - Evaluation and assessment
 - Service coordination
 - Service Provision (this varies across states)

Regional (District/Local) Administrative Approach

- Funding arrangements:
 - The state usually provides funding to the regional/local lead up front or provides payment on a monthly or quarterly basis
 - The state can also reimburse following the provision of services based on a fee for service (e.g., centralized billing)
 - In some states, funding arrangements include a combination of these methods

Regional (District/Local) Administrative Approach



Regional (District/Local) Administrative Approach

- State examples:
 - North Carolina
 - Virginia
 - Nevada
 - New York
 - Ohio

<http://www.nectac.org/topcis/quality/statestruct.asp>

Anne Lucas – Anne_Lucas@unc.edu

Joicey Hurth – Joicey_Hurth@unc.edu



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