



**Early Intervention Grants For  
Infants and Families Program (IDEA Part C)  
U.S. Department of Education  
115th Congress**

### **The Need**

The number of children in the United States with developmental delays is on the rise. A recent study found that approximately 13 percent of infants and toddlers (0 to 3 years) have a developmental delay. Research has also found that 1-in-3 infants and toddlers who received early intervention services did not later present with a delay or require special education in preschool. Earlier identification and intervention is more effective and less costly. The science of early development highlights the remarkable opportunities to optimize child development. Child development, as well as parental well-being, is enhanced when parents and other caregivers are encouraged to understand each child's unique characteristics and respond with sensitivity and warmth.

### **IDEA Part C, State Grants for Infants and Families**

Congress established the Early Intervention Grants for Infants and Families Program (generally referred to as "Part C") of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in recognition of "an urgent and substantial need" to intervene on behalf of infants with disabilities and their families. The Early Intervention program or Part C, is a federal grant program that assists states in operating a comprehensive statewide program of services and supports for children birth through two years old with developmental delays, including (state option) children who are "at risk" of developing a delay or need that may affect their development or impede their education. Currently approximately 2 percent of all children under age of three are receiving IDEA supported early intervention services.



### **Easterseals and Early Intervention**

Easterseals and its affiliates have a long history of serving infants and children with disabilities through Part C, Early Intervention grants. Easterseals services are administered by professionally trained specialists in early intervention. Easterseals specialists offer individualized services, including, but not limited to: teaching and guiding parents toward necessary supports and services to meet their specific child and family needs; helping parents learn about their child's individual developmental strengths and needs in order to maximize opportunities to participate in their home and community activities; and providing parents with family-centered, routines-based activities that will enhance their child's overall developmental progress and future outcomes. Easterseals is also raising awareness across the country through its *Make The First Five Count* campaign about the need for all young children to receive the support they need before age five to meet key developmental milestones and to prepare themselves for academic and future success.

### **Easterseals Early Intervention (IDEA Part C) Requests**

Easterseals urges Congress to fully fund Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to provide early intervention services to children with disabilities.

- ***Fully fund Early Intervention Grants for Infants and Families Program (IDEA Part C) in fiscal year 2019 at no less than \$458,556,000.***



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<b>Fiscal Year 2019 Member Submission Information</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<i>Early Intervention Grants for Infants and Families Program (IDEA Part C)</i>
<b>Subcommittee</b>	<i>Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies</i>
<b>Department/Agency</b>	<i>U.S. Department of Education</i>
<b>Account</b>	<i>Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Service (OSERS)</i>
<b>Brief Description</b>	<i>The Grants for Infants and Families Program (Part C) awards formula grants to states to assist them in implementing statewide systems of coordinated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, interagency programs and making early intervention services available to children with disabilities, aged birth through 2, and their families.</i>
<b>Request Type</b> <i>(Programmatic or Language)</i>	<i>Programmatic Funding Request</i>
<b>FY 2019 Easterseals Request</b>	<i>\$458,556,000</i>
<b>FY 2019 President Request</b>	<i>\$458,556,000</i>
<b>Authorization Level in Last Year of Authorization</b>	<i>“such sums as may be necessary” (<a href="#">IDEA</a>)</i>
<b>FY 2018 Enacted</b>	<i>TBD</i>
<b>FY 2017 Enacted</b>	<i>\$458,556,000</i>

**Key Links:**

- [About the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities](#)
- [Department of Education Fiscal Year 2019 Special Education Budget](#)