

### **The Need**

About 1 in 6 children in the United States have a developmental disability and about 1 in 68 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder. The prevalence of children diagnosed with a developmental disability is increasing, from 5.76 percent in 2014 to 6.99 percent in 2016. Children with developmental disabilities or who are not meeting key developmental milestones are at greater risk of falling behind their peers academically. Research has found that providing infants and toddlers with access to early childhood intervention programs, particularly with small child-to-adult ratios, have shown to improve children's outcomes, including academic achievement, behavioral and emotional competencies, educational progression, and labor market success. Research also concludes that access to early childhood interventions represents a strong return on the public investment, from \$1.80 to \$17.07 for every dollar invested.

### **Section 619 of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that guarantees a free, appropriate public education for students with disabilities. Section 619 of Part B of IDEA provides formula grants to states to support the educational needs of children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 5 years. Part B also provides formula grants to states to support the educational needs of children between the ages of 5 and 22 years. Eligible preschool-age children receive special education services in accordance with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Approximately 5 percent of all children between the ages of 3 and 5 are supported by the 619 program. Section 619 of Part B of IDEA is the only federal program dedicated to preschool-age children with disabilities.



### **Easterseals Assists Families of Preschool-age Children with Disabilities through Section 619 Part B Funding**

Easterseals is a national provider of inclusive early education services. Easterseals affiliates across the country partner with local school districts in the delivery of special education services to preschoolers with disabilities. For some children, an Easterseals therapist will come to the school and be part of the interdisciplinary team to implement the child's IEP. In other instances, a preschool child can receive her IEP services at an Easterseals early education program.

### **Easterseals Preschool Grants for States Program (IDEA Part B) Policy Requests**

Easterseals urges Congress to meet the needs of children with disabilities by funding the Preschool Grants for States (IDEA, Part B, Section 619).

- ***Fully fund Preschool Grants for States (IDEA Part B, Section 619) in fiscal year 2019 at no less than \$368,238,000.***



<b>Fiscal Year 2019 Member Submission Information</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<i>Preschool Grants for States (IDEA Part B, Sec. 619)</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 Programs (OSEP)</i>
<b>Brief Description</b>	<i>The Preschool Grants to States Program (Part B, Section 619) provides formula grants to states for the provision of special education and related services for children with disabilities aged three through five who have an approved application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).</i>
<b>Request Type</b> <i>(Programmatic or Language)</i>	<i>Programmatic Funding Request</i>
<b>FY 2019 Easterseals Request</b>	<i>No less than \$368,238,000</i>
<b>FY 2019 President Request</b>	<i>\$368,238,000</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>\$368,238,000</i>

**Key Links:**

- [About the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) Part B Program](#)
- [Department of Education FY 2019 Special Education Budget](#)
- [Annual Report to Congress on IDEA 2017](#)