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## Our Nation's Children at Risk:

*A State-by-State Report on Early Intervention*



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Message to Readers:

Easter Seals is pleased to present ***Our Nation's Children at Risk: A State-by-State Report on Early Intervention***. The new report gives us a sense for how well each state takes care of its youngest children with disabilities and delays. The unfortunate news: infants and toddlers in nearly every state continue to fall behind, many will never catch up. Yet, with the right investment in treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for millions of families across the country.

While there are many choices for families seeking early identification and early intervention services, the federally funded Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C program offers all families services designed to help them facilitate their infant or toddler's development. It's a program created to help young children with disabilities or developmental delays catch up with their peers without disabilities, or enhance their development so they can better learn and grow. In October 2011 we celebrated IDEA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, yet the legislation has never been fully or adequately funded.

### **The Report: States by the Numbers**

The individual state profiles within the report provide a comprehensive overview of the current status of federal and state funding for early intervention services through the Part C program of IDEA in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Easter Seals looked at funding levels compared not only to the number of children (ages 0-3) served under Part C every year, but also how many children fail to receive the proper screenings to identify their special need and how many children are at risk for developmental delays, autism or disabilities in each state.

It's also important to note, funding cuts or limitations have forced states to make difficult choices to limit the number of children who are eligible for Part C services to those children with only the most significant disabilities. Our report identifies the number of children who may have mild to moderate disabilities, developmental delays or who are at risk for developmental delays who could benefit from such services -- beyond those children who are currently eligible.

And finally, for each state, we shared at least one local story of a young child who is truly thriving because of the early services and support he or she received -- a real example of how the lives of so many families can change for the better.

Nationally, approximately 2.67 percent of children under the age of three are enrolled in the Part C program, and yet, data from the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center indicates nearly 13 percent of all children under the age of three should be served, using current eligibility criteria. Data from the US Maternal and Child Health Bureau indicate nearly 20 percent of all children could benefit from early identification and early intervention services.

There are some bright spots. States including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Mexico, Wyoming, New York and New Hampshire serve more than 4 percent of their population

through the Part C program of IDEA. These six states reach far more children with disabilities and delays than other states, with more young children able to access the critical services and supports they need when they can most benefit. These states are on the right track, and should serve as an example to others, but we know it's just the beginning.

We're not doing enough for our nation's youngest and most vulnerable children, especially in states that serve fewer than 2 percent of their population including Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Montana, Missouri, Arkansas and the District of Columbia.

### **You can Make the First Five Count for Young Children**

Easter Seals is sharing the report across the United States, engaging in discussions about the importance of early intervention with federal, state and local legislators, community leaders, educators, other nonprofits, media, and our volunteers, families and staff. The data and stories serve as a factual, and humanized, resource for parents and advocates of young children and those looking to learn more about early intervention. We hope others will join us and speak up – especially in the 45 states who serve less than 4 percent of the population – lend their voice, and ask policy makers to invest more in our young children's futures.

Funding for programs that help kids with special needs is already inadequate – and with major budget cuts up for consideration in Congress, millions more could fall through the cracks. In just one year in the U.S., more than one million children go undiagnosed, forced to cope with learning and health difficulties that are often completely treatable.

Easter Seals created *Make the First Five Count* to advocate for children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities and ensure they get the support they need to be school-ready and build a foundation for a lifetime of learning. Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

In the first year of our campaign, Part C funding was increased. Thanks to your voice, we achieved 5 percent of our goal.

If you believe all kids deserve a chance to learn, build lifelong skills, and achieve their dreams, speak out today!

Become a part of the solution. Join us at **[MaketheFirstFiveCount.org](http://MaketheFirstFiveCount.org)**.



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## States Serving more than 4 Percent of Children through Part C Program of IDEA





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## State of Early Intervention: Massachusetts

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Massachusetts.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

**Federal funding:** Currently, Massachusetts receives \$7.5 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$63,000 from the previous year.

**State funding:** Massachusetts allocates \$28 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of almost \$3 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Massachusetts

- There are 232,364 kids in Massachusetts ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 46,472 Massachusetts children.
- In Massachusetts, 30,207 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 32,327 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Rhode Island

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Rhode Island.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Fiona.**



### Fiona, age 3

#### Easter Seals New Hampshire, Maine & Rhode Island

Fiona was born with a hand anomaly; she was missing the fingers on her right hand, but her thumb was intact. Shortly after birth, she began a regime of physical and developmental therapy from Easter Seals Rhode Island.

Initially, her family and therapists were concerned Fiona would neglect her right side, but Fiona, displaying an incredible perseverance in such a tiny little girl, defied the odds. Fiona's family and Easter Seals work together to assist Fiona in developing to her full potential and to make her hand more functional. "It hit me one day," explained Fiona's dad, Paul, "I saw Fiona trying to hold her bottle and she couldn't; it was that moment that I realized I would do anything to make sure she could do anything she put her mind to and, with [Easter Seals]'s help, we are right on track, hitting milestones and watching her thrive just as we knew she could."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Rhode Island receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$19,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Rhode Island allocates \$171,000 in funding for early intervention. This amount represents an increase of almost \$7,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Rhode Island

- There are 36,563 kids in Rhode Island ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 7,312 Rhode Island children.
- In Rhode Island, 4,753 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 3,773 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: New Mexico

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in New Mexico.

Through *Make the First Five Count®*, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, New Mexico receives nearly \$3 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of almost \$20,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** New Mexico allocates \$14.5 in funding for early intervention. This amount remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in New Mexico

- There are 91,917 kids in New Mexico ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 18,383 New Mexico children.
- In New Mexico, 11,949 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 5,351 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Wyoming

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Wyoming.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Wyoming receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$20,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Wyoming allocates \$10.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount has increased by \$270,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Wyoming

- There are 24,844 kids in Wyoming ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 4,968 Wyoming children.
- In Wyoming, 3,230 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 1,149 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
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## State of Early Intervention: New York

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in New York.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Fernando.**



### **Fernando, age 6**

#### **Easter Seals Bronx Child Development Center**

Born with Down syndrome, Fernando struggled to walk or stand independently and had difficulties with motor skills when he arrived at the Bronx Child Development Center at age two. But a new world opened for Fernando and his family when he learned to eat, walk, and run independently in less than one academic year at Easter Seals.

Fernando continued to grow and develop skills at a remarkable pace last year. He is now able to use sign language to communicate and has become more verbal than before—a true and integral achievement. His teacher reports that he has matured tremendously and his behavior has significantly improved.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication from Fernando's teachers and family, he is ready to enter special education in his public school for the upcoming school year.







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, New York receives \$24 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$210,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** New York allocates \$164 million for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of \$3 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in New York

- There are 745,143 kids in New York ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 149,028 New York children.
- In New York, 96,869 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 69,590 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13tbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: New Hampshire

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in New Hampshire.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

### Funding for Part C will help kids like Carter.



### Carter, age 6

### Easter Seals New Hampshire, Maine & Rhode Island

Born with a condition called Tetra-amelia, Carter is missing bones throughout his body which resulted in anomalies on all four limbs. His occupational therapist began home visits when Carter was just three months old and was able to help him and his family, both physically and emotionally, after the amputation of Carter's left lower leg and foot at six months old—a procedure necessary to increase his mobility.

Because of the early intervention services Carter received, from just after birth through age three, he now has an equal chance to learn, grow and achieve his dreams just like his peers. Today, Carter is a thriving six-year-old boy. He is strong, happy and fearless. Carter stays very busy—playing at the playground and keeping up with his big brother, and working hard to maximize his prosthetic legs.





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## The State of Funding

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Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, New Hampshire receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$18,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** New Hampshire allocates nearly \$5.4 million in funding for early intervention. This amount increased by almost \$170,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in New Hampshire

- There are 43,201 kids in New Hampshire ages 0-3 years.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 8,640 New Hampshire children.
- In New Hampshire, 5,616 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 3,579 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
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# States Serving fewer than 2 Percent of Children through Part C Program of IDEA





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## State of Early Intervention: Georgia

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Georgia.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kai.**



### Kai, age 5

#### Easter Seals West Georgia, Columbus

Kai was born with Down syndrome and has had many ups and downs medically. She has been in therapy since she was two months old and started at Easter Seals when she was six months old.

Kai's mom said, "I truly believe Kai has made the progress she has because of the early intervention and daily therapy."

In addition to going to school at Easter Seals, Kai receives speech and physical therapy there. Her mom said that she believes without therapy, Kai wouldn't have been able to learn to walk as quickly as she did. "I would have to say that without her intervention, I am certain that Kai would not be able to do many of the things that she is able to do."

Today, Kai is a very active girl, who loves to sing and dance. She loves to play outside, jump on the trampoline, swing and play with her dolls. She also enjoys singing her ABC'S and counting to 10!







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Georgia receives \$14.6 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$129,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Georgia allocates nearly \$9.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount decreased by \$135,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

**To learn more, log onto  
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## The Numbers in Georgia

- There are 452,427 kids in Georgia ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 90,485 Georgia kids.
- In Georgia, 58,815 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 11,947 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.



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## State of Early Intervention: Alabama

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Alabama.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Caroline.**



### Caroline, age 11

#### Easter Seals Alabama, Birmingham

When Caroline was born, her parents thought they had a perfectly healthy baby. It wasn't until she was about 13 months old that they began to notice delays in her speech and mobility. Immediately, her mother contacted Easter Seals for help.

Easter Seals not only provided Caroline with physical, occupational and speech therapy, but also offered her family the support they needed to tackle what lay ahead. Nine years later, Easter Seals still provides Caroline and her family with the latest in adaptive equipment and communication technology.

Caroline is unable to use her hands because of a genetic disorder (Rett Syndrome), so traditional communication devices hadn't been an option. Two years ago, Easter Seals outfitted Caroline with her first communication device, the Dynavox Eye Gaze talker, and Caroline was able to communicate with her family for the first time in her life.

Caroline's mother is grateful for her daughter's progress: "Thank you Easter Seals for continuing to search for answers, for always striving to improve Caroline's quality of life. We don't know what the future holds for Caroline, but with Easter Seals, we know we won't face it alone."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Alabama receives approximately \$6.16 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$53,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Alabama allocates \$7.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents an increase of over \$863,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Alabama

- There are 182,171 kids in Alabama ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 38,128 Alabama children.
- In Alabama, 24,783 kids are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 6,081 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Tennessee

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Tennessee.

Through *Make the First Five Count®*, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Tennessee receives \$8.3 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$63,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Tennessee allocates \$11.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of \$1.3 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Tennessee

- There are 258,766 kids in Tennessee ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 51,753 Tennessee children.
- In Tennessee, 33,640 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 4,054 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Mississippi

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Mississippi.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



**Kyle, age 9**

### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Mississippi receives \$4.4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$37,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** State funding for Part C is \$221,954. This amount is unchanged from the previous year.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Mississippi

- There are 136,477 kids in Mississippi ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 27,295 Mississippi children.
- In Mississippi, 17,742 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 2,358 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogr am.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Montana

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Montana.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Montana receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$20,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Montana funding for early intervention was nearly \$2.7 million in 2013. This amount was unchanged between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Montana

- There are 38,324 kids in Montana ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 7,664 Montana children.
- In Montana, 4,982 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 1,601 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Missouri

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Missouri.

Through *Make the First Five Count®*, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Missouri receives \$7.9 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$70,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Missouri allocates \$18.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a \$2 million increase between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Missouri

- There are 244,769 kids in Missouri ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 48,953 Missouri children.
- In Missouri, 31,820 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 4,539 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Arkansas

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Arkansas.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Al.**



**Al, age 9**

**Easter Seals Arkansas, Little Rock**

Born with Down syndrome and a heart condition, Al was just four weeks old when an Easter Seals therapist first visited his home to help his parents learn how to care for him. At the time, Al's dad, James, was in his medical residency working nearly 100 hours a week, and his mother, DeAnn, was a registered nurse.

Because of Al's many health and medical needs, DeAnn chose to leave her career to better care for her son. As Al grew and gained enough strength, he transitioned into Easter Seals local preschool.

Today, Al is an active nine-year-old who attends public school and still receives intensive physical, occupational and speech therapy services twice a week. He is always on the go—jumping, running, climbing and learning—and loves being on the local Miracle League baseball team and taking tae kwon do lessons!





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Arkansas receives \$4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$34,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Arkansas does not allocate state funds for Part C.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Arkansas

- There are 123,940 kids in Arkansas ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 24,788 Arkansas children.
- In Arkansas, 16,112 kids are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 3,222 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: District of Columbia

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in the District of Columbia.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Bryan.**



### **Bryan, age 5**

**Easter Seals Serving DC|MD|VA**

Bryan was born 12 weeks premature and weighed just 2 ½ pounds. As a newborn, he spent three months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for a variety of medical complications.

Bryan began attending the Easter Seals Child Development Center in Washington, D.C. when he was ten months old. Due to his prematurity and extensive medical issues, Bryan exhibited a host of developmental delays. In addition to full-day child development at Easter Seals, Bryan was also able to receive on-site physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech/language therapy.

Over the course of the four years that Bryan attended the center, he developed into an active, healthy, entertaining and chatty boy. By the time he graduated from the Easter Seals program, Bryan had been discharged from all therapy services.

When Bryan started kindergarten, he was enrolled in a general education classroom and needed no special education services.





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, the District of Columbia receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$14,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** The District of Columbia allocated no funding for early intervention for 2013. This remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in the District of Columbia

- There are 23,335 kids in the District of Columbia ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 4,667 children in the District of Columbia.
- In the District of Columbia, 3,034 kids are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 399 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## Data for All 50 States





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## State of Early Intervention: Alabama

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Alabama.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Caroline.**



### Caroline, age 11

#### Easter Seals Alabama, Birmingham

When Caroline was born, her parents thought they had a perfectly healthy baby. It wasn't until she was about 13 months old that they began to notice delays in her speech and mobility. Immediately, her mother contacted Easter Seals for help.

Easter Seals not only provided Caroline with physical, occupational and speech therapy, but also offered her family the support they needed to tackle what lay ahead. Nine years later, Easter Seals still provides Caroline and her family with the latest in adaptive equipment and communication technology.

Caroline is unable to use her hands because of a genetic disorder (Rett Syndrome), so traditional communication devices hadn't been an option. Two years ago, Easter Seals outfitted Caroline with her first communication device, the Dynavox Eye Gaze talker, and Caroline was able to communicate with her family for the first time in her life.

Caroline's mother is grateful for her daughter's progress: "Thank you Easter Seals for continuing to search for answers, for always striving to improve Caroline's quality of life. We don't know what the future holds for Caroline, but with Easter Seals, we know we won't face it alone."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Alabama receives approximately \$6.16 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$53,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Alabama allocates \$7.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents an increase of over \$863,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Alabama

- There are 182,171 kids in Alabama ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 38,128 Alabama children.
- In Alabama, 24,783 kids are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 6,081 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Alaska

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Alaska.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Alaska receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$20,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Alaska allocates nearly \$7 million in funding for early intervention. State funding increased by \$320,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Alaska

- There are 33,734 kids in Alaska ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 6,746 Alaska children.
- In Alaska, 4,385 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 1,436 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Arizona

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Arizona.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Nathan.**



### Nathan, age 3

#### Easter Seals Southwest Human Development, Phoenix

Nathan is three now, but from birth, his parents had a difficult time getting him to eat, and as he grew older, he was reluctant to take solid foods and became severely underweight. Even after seeing specialists, they didn't come away with a clear understanding of what their son's problem was—and Nathan wasn't getting any better.

About a year ago, Nathan's mother, Julie, brought him to Easter Seals, where a developmental pediatrician, a psychologist, a speech-language pathologist, an occupational therapist and a dietitian worked with Nathan and his family to recommend a treatment plan.

Today, Julie says Nathan can eat almost anything: "I can't get enough food in him! He now weighs just 23 pounds, so he has a ways to go. But he is eating and, with the exception of ongoing speech therapy, he is developmentally on track."



## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*®, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Arizona receives \$10 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$87,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Arizona allocates \$3.3 million in funding for early intervention. This amount remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

## The Numbers in Arizona

- There are 311,884 kids in Arizona ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 62,376 Arizona children.
- In Arizona, 40,545 kids are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 10,176 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbypogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

### Funding for Part C will help kids like Morgan.



### Morgan, age 4

### Easter Seals Blake Foundation (Tucson)

At birth, Morgan was diagnosed with Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita, a rare disorder that affects her joints and limits her mobility. At one week old, Morgan began her first round of serial casting. Since then, she has undergone 25 pairs of serial castings and four surgeries. During this time, Morgan also began receiving early intervention therapy.

“Through the help of Early Intervention, not only did Morgan receive the therapy she desperately needed, but as her parents, we learned how to help Morgan on a daily basis,” said Morgan’s mom.

Now, Morgan attends preschool with the help of an aide for mobility and is academically right on track. She continues to receive physical, occupational and speech therapies through her preschool and takes hippotherapy lessons as well. She has learned how to be mobile using a walker and power wheelchair can self-feed and is talking up a storm. Morgan is typically developing in many ways because she received help early, when she needed it most. She loves to play baby dolls, horses and dress-up.



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## State of Early Intervention: Arkansas

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Arkansas.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Al.**



**Al, age 9**

**Easter Seals Arkansas, Little Rock**

Born with Down syndrome and a heart condition, Al was just four weeks old when an Easter Seals therapist first visited his home to help his parents learn how to care for him. At the time, Al's dad, James, was in his medical residency working nearly 100 hours a week, and his mother, DeAnn, was a registered nurse.

Because of Al's many health and medical needs, DeAnn chose to leave her career to better care for her son. As Al grew and gained enough strength, he transitioned into Easter Seals local preschool.

Today, Al is an active nine-year-old who attends public school and still receives intensive physical, occupational and speech therapy services twice a week. He is always on the go—jumping, running, climbing and learning—and loves being on the local Miracle League baseball team and taking tae kwon do lessons!





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## The State of Funding

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Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Arkansas receives \$4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$34,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Arkansas does not allocate state funds for Part C.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Arkansas

- There are 123,940 kids in Arkansas ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 24,788 Arkansas children.
- In Arkansas, 16,112 kids are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 3,222 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: California

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in California.

Through *Make the First Five Count®*, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Lili.**



### Lili, age 5

#### Easter Seals Bay Area

Liliana (Lili) and her twin brother, Grayden, were born in 2007. Before Lili's second birthday, her parents noticed Liliana wasn't meeting certain developmental milestones for her age. She was non-verbal and lacked communication skills. Lili's pediatrician suggested her parents have her checked by specialists, and it was confirmed that she had an autism spectrum disorder.

Lili and her family started with Easter Seals Bay Area in October 2009 as part of the East Bay Early Intervention Autism Project. Lili's mom cannot say enough good things about her therapists: "Melissa and Amy are part of the family. They work with us 20+ hours a week. When they arrive, Lili cannot wait to see them. They provide a team approach by sharing information with Lili's occupational and speech therapists. Lili's progress is tremendous—she is a completely different child."







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, California receives \$54 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is a moderate increase of approximately \$464,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** California allocates \$72.8 million in funding for early intervention. This remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in California

- There are 1,672,411 kids in California ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 334,482 California children.
- In California, 217,413 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 30,754 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Colorado

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Colorado.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Morris.**



### **Morris, age 8**

#### **Easter Seals Colorado**

At a young age, Morris was diagnosed with developmental delays, Attention Deficit Disorder and Hyperactivity. At five years old, Morris' mother, Martha, was determined to find a place where Morris could learn to swim and receive the one-on-one attention, kindness, socialization and patience he so desperately needed.

Through Easter Seals Colorado's partnership with Denver Options, Martha was referred to Easter Seals Warm Water Therapy Pool in September of 2009. Martha was ecstatic because after trying many other pool facilities, Easter Seals was the "only pool that offered Morris everything he needed and more, not to mention he now loves the water."

Because of the help he got early on, he was able to learn new socialization skills—skills that have helped him in school. Morris said, "I can now swim in the deep end and I love Easter Seals, thank you."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Colorado receives \$7 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$61,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Colorado allocates nearly \$15 million in funding for early intervention. This amount remained unchanged between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Colorado

- There are 219,457 kids in Colorado ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 43,891 Colorado children.
- In Colorado, 28,529 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 5,394 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Connecticut

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Connecticut.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Connecticut receives \$4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$35,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Connecticut allocates \$34.7 million funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of \$6.9 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Connecticut

- There are 125,428 kids in Connecticut ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 25,085 Connecticut children.
- In Connecticut, 16,305 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 8,938 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
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## State of Early Intervention: District of Columbia

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in the District of Columbia.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Bryan.**



### **Bryan, age 5**

**Easter Seals Serving DC|MD|VA**

Bryan was born 12 weeks premature and weighed just 2 ½ pounds. As a newborn, he spent three months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for a variety of medical complications.

Bryan began attending the Easter Seals Child Development Center in Washington, D.C. when he was ten months old. Due to his prematurity and extensive medical issues, Bryan exhibited a host of developmental delays. In addition to full-day child development at Easter Seals, Bryan was also able to receive on-site physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech/language therapy.

Over the course of the four years that Bryan attended the center, he developed into an active, healthy, entertaining and chatty boy. By the time he graduated from the Easter Seals program, Bryan had been discharged from all therapy services.

When Bryan started kindergarten, he was enrolled in a general education classroom and needed no special education services.





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, the District of Columbia receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$14,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** The District of Columbia allocated no funding for early intervention for 2013. This remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in the District of Columbia

- There are 23,335 kids in the District of Columbia ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 4,667 children in the District of Columbia.
- In the District of Columbia, 3,034 kids are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 399 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
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## State of Early Intervention: Delaware

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Delaware.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Tommy.**



### Tommy, age 6

#### Easter Seals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore

A trail of Cheerios makes a path from one side of the family room to the other and at the end of it, Tommy, a determined little boy, is learning to walk. His mother watches in awe as her son moves from one Cheerio to the next and makes his way to her. His Easter Seals therapist smiles as she watches another child surpass his goals.

Tommy, who has Down syndrome, did more than just learn how to walk with the help of Easter Seals therapists. Through a combination of occupational, speech and physical therapies along with early childhood education services, Tommy is now running, learning to speak, and riding a tricycle. Additionally, Tommy's transition from individual therapy to group therapy among his peers has prepared him for the future!

### The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014. Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.





## MAKE THE FIRST FIVE COUNT®

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Delaware receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$20,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Delaware allocates nearly \$2.9 million in funding for early intervention. State funding increased by \$210,000 from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

### The Numbers in Delaware

- There are 35,022 kids in Delaware ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 7,004 Delaware children.
- In Delaware, 4,553 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 1,787 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

#### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government

Funding for Part C will also help kids like Zoe.



### Easter Seals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore

#### Zoe, Age 4

Zoe was born with a heart defect and had open heart surgery at 19 days to save her life. In addition to her heart condition, Zoe was diagnosed with profound deafness at 15 months. Easter Seals therapists who had been working on physical, occupational and feeding therapies with Zoe since she was four months readily adapted. After three weeks of language therapy, Zoe signed and soon after said her first words. "Once Zoe discovered she could communicate, everything else took off - physical, social, and emotional development came rapidly," her mom said. Now Zoe has a cochlear implant to help her hear and a team at Easter Seals to help her learn to use her voice!

To learn more, log onto  
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## State of Early Intervention: Florida

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Florida.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kelly.**



### Kelly, age 7

#### Easter Seals Florida, Orlando

Kelly first arrived at Easter Seals in Tampa, Florida when she was just two months old and recently discharged from the neonatal intensive care unit. Born at 35 weeks gestation and weighing only 4lbs 8oz, Kelly was referred to the program due to global delays related to a diagnosis of Down syndrome. Though Kelly continued to have medical setbacks throughout her three years of Easter Seals care, the early intervention staff remained her constant—continuing to work on her development in order to ensure that she reached all of her milestones.

Thanks to the help of a supportive family and a dedicated Easter Seals team, Kelly was able to qualify for speech therapy from the school system. She now has only minor delays and made significant developmental progress.







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Florida receives \$22.7 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$198,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Florida allocates \$23.3 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents an increase of \$6.8 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Florida

- There are 703,919 Florida kids ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 140,783 Florida children.
- In Florida, 91,509 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 13,158 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Georgia

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Georgia.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kai.**



### **Kai, age 5**

#### **Easter Seals West Georgia, Columbus**

Kai was born with Down syndrome and has had many ups and downs medically. She has been in therapy since she was two months old and started at Easter Seals when she was six months old.

Kai's mom said, "I truly believe Kai has made the progress she has because of the early intervention and daily therapy."

In addition to going to school at Easter Seals, Kai receives speech and physical therapy there. Her mom said that she believes without therapy, Kai wouldn't have been able to learn to walk as quickly as she did. "I would have to say that without her intervention, I am certain that Kai would not be able to do many of the things that she is able to do."

Today, Kai is a very active girl, who loves to sing and dance. She loves to play outside, jump on the trampoline, swing and play with her dolls. She also enjoys singing her ABC'S and counting to 10!





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Georgia receives \$14.6 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$129,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Georgia allocates nearly \$9.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount decreased by \$135,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

**To learn more, log onto  
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## The Numbers in Georgia

- There are 452,427 kids in Georgia ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 90,485 Georgia kids.
- In Georgia, 58,815 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 11,947 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.



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## State of Early Intervention: Hawaii

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Hawaii.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Hawaii receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$20,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Part C funding is part of a larger children with special health care needs program. Information about state funding for Part C is not available.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Hawaii

- There are 55,055 kids in Hawaii ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 11,011 Hawaii children.
- In Hawaii, 7,157 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 4,001 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Idaho

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Idaho.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Idaho receives \$2.4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is a slight increase of approximately \$17,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Idaho allocates \$6.1 million in funding for early intervention. This remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Idaho

- There are 76,056 kids in Idaho ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 15,211 Idaho children.
- In Idaho, 9,887 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 3,348 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Illinois

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Illinois.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Ivy.**



### Ivy, age 6

#### Easter Seals DuPage & the Fox Valley Region (Chicago)

At four months, Ivy was diagnosed with hemiparesis, or weakness in the muscles on her right side. An MRI and CT scan showed Ivy had a stroke before she was born. At Easter Seals, Ivy received physical therapy at six months, occupational therapy at eight months and was walking by age one. Ivy was a chatterbox after just nine months of speech therapy.

But without early intervention, her parents know Ivy wouldn't be where she is today—a busy, active little girl taking therapeutic riding and swimming lessons and tap dance classes.

“We don't know what we would have done if we didn't go to Easter Seals,” said Ivy's mom.

With the early intervention services she's received, Ivy is now able to take the bus to preschool, where she still receives physical, occupational and speech therapy. She's also taking ballet and even performed at her last recital without an aide!





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## The State of Funding

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Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Illinois receives \$17.4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$153,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Illinois allocates \$160 million in funding for early intervention. This remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

## The Numbers in Illinois

- There are 540,688 kids in Illinois ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 108,137 Illinois children.
- In Illinois, 70,289 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 33,829 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

Funding for Part C will help kids like Garrison.



## **Garrison, age 6**

### **Easter Seals Peoria-Bloomington-Normal & Decatur**

Garrison started receiving speech therapy from Easter Seals when he was 18 months old. During his time at Easter Seals, staff realized he had other developmental delays. He demonstrated frequent behavior outbreaks with extreme aggression towards himself and others. His family couldn't take him to stores or restaurants.

When Garrison was diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder at age three, Easter Seals helped him improve his social and communication skills.

He has made significant progress since then. While he still receives some specialized services, Garrison entered kindergarten ready to learn alongside his peers. Now, he's speaking in sentences, plays T-ball and loves to bowl. He loves to play with friends and go out to eat.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

#### **Sources:**

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.





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## State of Early Intervention: Indiana

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Indiana.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Abigail.**



### Abigail, age 5

#### Easter Seals Southwestern Indiana

Soon after Abigail was born, she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and developmental delays. She began therapy with the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center when she was two years old. At first, her goals included simply grasping a crayon, increasing her vocabulary to 20 words and speaking two words at a time. Now, at age five, Abigail draws with markers, cuts with scissors and talks a lot!

Abigail recently “graduated” from speech therapy at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. She continues working hard in physical and occupational therapy every week. She’s improving her printing and her walking skills.

### The State of Funding

Today, it’s harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.







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- **Federal funding:** Currently, Indiana receives \$8.68 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$76,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Indiana allocates \$6.1 million in funding for early intervention. This amount remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Indiana

- There are 268,753 kids in Indiana ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 67,188 Indiana children.
- In Indiana, 53,750 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 20,447 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

**Funding for Part C will also help kids like Morgan, Carly and Jude.**



## **Morgan, Carly, Jude, age 5**

Jaime Dockery's triplets were born early, but when they went home from neonatal intensive care, there were no signs of problems. Within a few months, though, Jaime started noticing delays in reaching milestones. Jude and Carly were diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Jude and Morgan both had language processing disorders. From the beginning, the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center has been here for the Dockery family, providing all three children with therapy and therapeutic preschool.

"It has been a true lifesaver!" Jaime said. "With the amount of therapy they need—eight sessions per week, not including therapy during preschool—I can't imagine what we would do without Easter Seals." Now age 5, the triplets are making great progress. "I would like to sincerely thank everyone who supports Easter Seals in any way," said Jaime. "As a mother of three that continue to receive services, I am very grateful to those who help make it possible!"

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## State of Early Intervention: Iowa

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Iowa.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Rio (left).**



### Rio, age 7

#### Easter Seals Iowa

Rio was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) on the autism spectrum when she was two years old. With a diagnosis early in life, Rio received speech therapy and early preschool through the school district during the school year, but in the summer her options were very limited.

Once her family heard about Easter Seals Bob & Billie Ray Child Development, Rio began attending the Child Development Center in the summers. Her family quickly noticed marked improvement in her behaviors and social interaction and celebrated each year she attended. At Easter Seals, Rio made her first friend, her language blossomed, and she started to use words to express her feelings instead of behaviors.

Her mother Patti shared this photo of Rio holding hands with another child. “Rio could not have held hands with a friend a year ago. Thanks to Rio receiving services early, at a place where her abilities are cherished, she has begun to reach her potential.”





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Iowa receives \$4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$34,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Iowa allocates \$1.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Iowa

- There are 123,638 kids in Iowa ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 24,727 Iowa children.
- In Iowa, 16,073 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 3,607 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Kansas

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Kansas.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Conner.**



### Conner, age 4

#### Easter Seals Capper Foundation, Topeka

Soon after Conner was born, his parents noticed that Conner would only look and turn his head in one direction and quickly sought help. Conner was diagnosed with a condition where half of his brain didn't develop. He spent much of his day napping from the 30+ seizures he had every day.

After surgery that disconnected the problem side of his brain, Conner started to notice the world around him. He was interested in his toys, later took his first steps, and is now walking and running!

Conner's left side is still weak, so occupational therapists at Easter Seals Capper Foundation are working to help him gain use of his left hand and arm and improve his walking abilities, and speech therapists are helping him begin to form sounds.

Now, at age four, Conner is making steady progress in Capper's Kidlink Preschool & Childcare Program. He's making new friends, laughing, smiling and learning to talk!







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Kansas receives \$4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$34,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Kansas allocates \$5.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

**To learn more, log onto  
MaketheFirstFiveCount.org today!**

## The Numbers in Kansas

- There are 125,447 kids in Kansas ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 25,089 Kansas children.
- In Kansas, 16,308 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 7,372 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.





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## State of Early Intervention: Kentucky

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Kentucky.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Nat.**



**Nat, age 4**

**Easter Seals West Kentucky**

Many of the child care services at Easter Seals West Kentucky offer early intervention through specialized therapies and education. One of many children who has benefited from intervention and therapy is Nat. He came to Easter Seals with developmental delays when he was just six weeks old, not hitting any of his major developmental milestones.

Today, after receiving speech and physical therapies at the Ethel Dubois Smith Child Development Center, Nat is keeping up with children his own age. He is running, jumping and most recently, calling people and objects by their names.





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Kentucky receives \$5.6 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$48,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Kentucky allocates nearly \$10.8 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of about \$330,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Kentucky

- There are 173,797 kids in Kentucky ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 34,759 Kentucky children.
- In Kentucky, 22,594 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 4,641 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Louisiana

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Louisiana.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Louisiana receives \$6.45 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$57,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Louisiana allocates \$10.4 million in funding for early intervention. This is an increase of \$2.8 million from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Louisiana

- There are 199,924 kids in Louisiana ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 39,984 Louisiana children.
- In Louisiana, 25,990 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 9,504 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Maine

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Maine.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Hailey.**



**Hailey, age 4**

**Easter Seals New Hampshire, Maine & Rhode Island**

Hailey was diagnosed before birth with Spina Bifida. Now four years old, Hailey has made remarkable progress in a short period of time. After multiple surgeries and months in a full-body cast, Hailey can move around better than anyone had ever imagined.

Just before she turned 2, Hailey began to receive physical and occupational therapy at Easter Seals. Within a year of starting early intervention therapy, Hailey has gone from crawling to cruising down the hallway with her walker. As she was learning to use her walker, her therapists placed doll clothing along the hallway and as Hailey worked hard to get from one station to the next she was rewarded with one of her favorite activities, dressing a doll in high-fashion apparel.

Today, Hailey is an amazing bundle of energy who just might be strutting down the runway someday, showing off her incredible sense of style.







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Maine receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$19,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Maine allocates \$27.9 million in funding for all its early education and care services of which Part C is one element. This amount is a decrease of \$128,000 from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Maine

- There are 42,201 kids in Maine ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 8,440 Maine children.
- In Maine, 5,486 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 930 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Maryland

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Maryland.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Amare.**



### Amare, age 6

**Easter Seals Serving DC|MD|VA**

When Irena and Matt Smith adopted their son, Amare, from Ethiopia they were immediately concerned with his critical early childhood education and his understanding of the English language. They enrolled Amare at Easter Seals. When he started, Amare only understood a little English but could not speak it.

In less than two years at Easter Seals Child Development Center in Silver Spring, Amare has not only mastered the English language, but has also become the most outgoing, attentive and likable kid in his class! “Easter Seals has been the most wonderful thing that has ever happened for Amare and for us,” said Irena. “They have done so much for him socially and developmentally, it’s incredible. It is a consistent, focused and challenging program. We will really miss Easter Seals when he goes to kindergarten.”





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Maryland receives \$7.46 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$64,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Maryland allocates \$592,970 in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of almost \$7,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Maryland

- There are 231,000 kids in Maryland ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 46,200 Maryland children.
- In Maryland, 30,030 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 14,636 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Massachusetts

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Massachusetts.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

**Federal funding:** Currently, Massachusetts receives \$7.5 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$63,000 from the previous year.

**State funding:** Massachusetts allocates \$28 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of almost \$3 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Massachusetts

- There are 232,364 kids in Massachusetts ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 46,472 Massachusetts children.
- In Massachusetts, 30,207 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 32,327 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Michigan

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Michigan.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Zach.**



**Zach, age 10**

**Easter Seals Michigan**

When Zach came to Easter Seals at age six, he knew fewer than 50 words. Of those, he did not use many on a regular basis. Easter Seals outfitted him with an augmentative communication device, and along with speech and occupational therapies, Zach has made significant progress. His language is becoming clearer and he no longer needs a machine to help him communicate.

“He talks so much now, sometimes I have to remind myself how thankful I am that he can speak,” says his mom.

Zach’s personality shines though even more now with his improved speech. He loves to give gifts, play pranks and has a delightful sense of humor. Easter Seals has helped Zach with so much more than language—it has helped him join the world.





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Michigan receives \$11.9 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$104,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Michigan includes funding for Part C as part of its special education program. There is no specific line item for Part C.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Michigan

- There are 370,025 kids in Michigan ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 74,005 Michigan children.
- In Michigan, 48,103 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 20,235 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Minnesota

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Minnesota.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Minnesota receives \$7.13 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$62,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Minnesota does not have a state allocation for Part C.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Minnesota

- There are 220,718 kids in Minnesota ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 44,143 Minnesota children.
- In Minnesota, 28,693 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 5,013 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Mississippi

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Mississippi.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Mississippi receives \$4.4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$37,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** State funding for Part C is \$221,954. This amount is unchanged from the previous year.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Mississippi

- There are 136,477 kids in Mississippi ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 27,295 Mississippi children.
- In Mississippi, 17,742 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 2,358 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogr am.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Missouri

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Missouri.

Through *Make the First Five Count®*, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Missouri receives \$7.9 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$70,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Missouri allocates \$18.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a \$2 million increase between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Missouri

- There are 244,769 kids in Missouri ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 48,953 Missouri children.
- In Missouri, 31,820 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 4,539 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Montana

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Montana.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Montana receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$20,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Montana funding for early intervention was nearly \$2.7 million in 2013. This amount was unchanged between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Montana

- There are 38,324 kids in Montana ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 7,664 Montana children.
- In Montana, 4,982 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 1,601 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Nebraska

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Nebraska.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Nebraska receives \$2.6 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$22,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Information about state funding for Part C is not available.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Nebraska

- There are 82,301 kids in Nebraska ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 16,460 Nebraska children.
- In Nebraska, 10,699 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 1,537 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Nevada

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Nevada.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Savannah.**



### Savannah, age 4

#### Easter Seals Nevada

“Our daughter started receiving multiple services from Easter Seals when she was 14 months old. She had some severe delays in a lot of areas and we were not sure what to do or where to turn to for help.

From our first meetings with our coordinator and therapists, we felt at ease and knew we were in good hands. Everyone at Easter Seals we worked with helped us to find ways to work with Savannah to help her achieve the developmental goals. They were always sincerely concerned about her needs and were always willing to answer our questions while going above and beyond to make sure she was getting the care and attention that she needed. Savannah has made significant progress with her development—much more quickly than we would have ever imagined. We will forever be grateful for the Easter Seals Early Intervention program and therapists.” - Rachele (Savannah’s mom).





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Nevada receives \$3.97 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$35,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Nevada allocated \$22 million in funding for early intervention in 2013. This amount represents an increase of \$2.36 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Nevada

- There are 122,929 kids in Nevada ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 24,585 Nevada children.
- In Nevada, 15,981 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 3,805 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: New Hampshire

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in New Hampshire.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Carter.**



### Carter, age 6

#### Easter Seals New Hampshire, Maine & Rhode Island

Born with a condition called Tetra-amelia, Carter is missing bones throughout his body which resulted in anomalies on all four limbs. His occupational therapist began home visits when Carter was just three months old and was able to help him and his family, both physically and emotionally, after the amputation of Carter's left lower leg and foot at six months old—a procedure necessary to increase his mobility.

Because of the early intervention services Carter received, from just after birth through age three, he now has an equal chance to learn, grow and achieve his dreams just like his peers. Today, Carter is a thriving six-year-old boy. He is strong, happy and fearless. Carter stays very busy—playing at the playground and keeping up with his big brother, and working hard to maximize his prosthetic legs.







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, New Hampshire receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$18,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** New Hampshire allocates nearly \$5.4 million in funding for early intervention. This amount increased by almost \$170,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in New Hampshire

- There are 43,201 kids in New Hampshire ages 0-3 years.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 8,640 New Hampshire children.
- In New Hampshire, 5,616 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 3,579 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: New Jersey

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in New Jersey.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Armaun.**



### Armaun, age 16

#### Easter Seals New Jersey

At a young age, Armaun faced challenges in addition to those presented by his cerebral palsy. He endured the loss of his mother and the illness of his grandmother which landed him in foster care. But Armaun came to school ready to learn because of the supports he received when it mattered most.

Easter Seals New Jersey's Camp Merry Heart was a huge player in making Armaun the mature young man he is today. Unlike the urban neighborhood to which he's accustomed, Camp Merry Heart provided Armaun the experience of fellowship and camaraderie with other kids facing similar challenges, all in a safe and supportive environment.

And now, Armaun is doing great things. Others describe him as "charming," "courageous" and "an eloquent speaker." He's already spoken twice at fundraisers for the organization that runs Camp Merry Heart for children with disabilities in Hackettstown. In February, he spoke to officials of the CVS drug store chain.

He was admitted to St. Benedict's Prep in Newark where he is finishing his first year as a residential student and hopes to attend the University of Notre Dame.

"I believe I have an advantage because of my disability," he said, "because I know I have to work harder."





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## The State of Funding#

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, New Jersey receives \$10.8 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of almost \$95,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** New Jersey allocates \$88.4 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of \$4.2 million from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in New Jersey

- There are 334,709 New Jersey kids ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 66,941 New Jersey children.
- In New Jersey, 43,512 kids under the age of 3 are at-risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 21,292 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: New Mexico

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in New Mexico.

Through *Make the First Five Count®*, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, New Mexico receives nearly \$3 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of almost \$20,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** New Mexico allocates \$14.5 in funding for early intervention. This amount remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in New Mexico

- There are 91,917 kids in New Mexico ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 18,383 New Mexico children.
- In New Mexico, 11,949 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 5,351 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: New York

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in New York.

Through *Make the First Five Count®*, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Fernando.**



### **Fernando, age 6**

#### **Easter Seals Bronx Child Development Center**

Born with Down syndrome, Fernando struggled to walk or stand independently and had difficulties with motor skills when he arrived at the Bronx Child Development Center at age two. But a new world opened for Fernando and his family when he learned to eat, walk, and run independently in less than one academic year at Easter Seals.

Fernando continued to grow and develop skills at a remarkable pace last year. He is now able to use sign language to communicate and has become more verbal than before—a true and integral achievement. His teacher reports that he has matured tremendously and his behavior has significantly improved.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication from Fernando's teachers and family, he is ready to enter special education in his public school for the upcoming school year.





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, New York receives \$24 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$210,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** New York allocates \$164 million for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of \$3 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in New York

- There are 745,143 kids in New York ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 149,028 New York children.
- In New York, 96,869 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 69,590 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13tbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: North Carolina

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in North Carolina.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Avery.**



### Avery, age 6

#### Easter Seals UCP North Carolina

Corey and Chris enrolled their daughter, Avery, in Easter Seals UCP North Carolina Children's Center when she was two years old. This allowed Avery, who has Down syndrome, to have access to speech, occupational and physical therapy services in an inclusive environment. Thanks to specially trained teachers and therapists, Avery was able to feed herself and drink from a cup within five days of her arrival at the Children's Center. Her inability to feed herself had held her back at her previous school.

Avery's mom, Corey, said, "We love that Avery can be in an environment where she is treated as normally as everyone else in the class, and yet receive high quality specialized services to help her advance."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, North Carolina receives \$13 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$11,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** North Carolina allocates nearly \$31.6 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of about \$2.5 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in North Carolina

- There are 402,502 kids in North Carolina ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 80,500 North Carolina children.
- In North Carolina, 52,325 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 18,271 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/12stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: North Dakota

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in North Dakota.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, North Dakota receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$17,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** North Dakota does not have a state allocation for early intervention funding because Part C activities are financed through a broad set of programs.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in North Dakota

- There are 26,830 kids in North Dakota ages 0-3 years.
- All young children should be screened for developmental delays and disabilities. However, fewer than 20% are properly screened to identify their special need, or only 5,366 North Dakota children.
- In North Dakota, 3,488 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 1,276 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Ohio

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Ohio.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Shannon.**



### Shannon, age 14

#### Easter Seals Central and Southeast Ohio, Columbus

Shannon came to Easter Seals when she was just two years old, with a primary diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy. Since then, she's received physical and occupational therapies and other services to help her walk, learn and take care of her personal needs. Easter Seals has also been there for her to help her attain new strength after her numerous surgeries.

Shannon is now a fiery 14-year-old redhead with a bright future. Thanks to Shannon's hard work and the dedicated staff at Easter Seals, Shannon walks with crutches and can take care of her basic needs. She goes to school with children who don't have disabilities and pours enthusiasm into whatever she does, whether it's playing T-ball, reading a great new book or working to achieve her dream of becoming a ballerina. As Shannon says, "When you want to be a ballerina, you have to work hard, and when you fall down, get back up and try again."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Ohio receives \$14.4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$127,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Ohio allocates \$33.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount remained unchanged between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Ohio

- There are 446,374 kids in Ohio ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 89,274 Ohio children.
- In Ohio, 58,029 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 14,868 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Oklahoma

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Oklahoma.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Karl.**



### Karl, age 6

#### Easter Seals Oklahoma

“Our son, Karl, is a very social, energetic, and curious child. His passion for life is contagious and he loves to talk about everything he sees and does. As he was learning to talk, we noticed he was having some difficulty with articulation, which made it hard to understand what he was saying. We would have to ask him to repeat himself several times and often still not understand after repetition. Karl would become very frustrated over not being understood and his speech difficulties began to impact his quality of life. The Speech Therapy Program at Easter Seal's Child Development Center integrates speech therapy into routine daily activities involving both the parents and the teachers. Karl has attended speech therapy weekly for a year and now can be understood almost all of the time. The speech therapy program at Easter Seal's Child Development Center is a truly exceptional comprehensive program.” —Douglas and Kristin, Karl's parents





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Oklahoma receives \$5.3 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$46,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Oklahoma allocates \$14.4 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of about \$1 million from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Oklahoma

- There are 165,496 kids in Oklahoma ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 33,099 Oklahoma children.
- In Oklahoma, 21,514 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 2,770 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprog/am.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Oregon

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Oregon.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Lucero.**



### Lucero

#### Easter Seals Oregon, Salem

Maria and David weren't sure what to expect of their baby, Lucero, when they began services at Easter Seals Oregon's Healthy Start/Healthy Families. The family had several stressors in their life—and few natural local supports.

But a lot has changed for their family since that time. They are connected to the Oregon Health Plan, the Women, Infants, and Children program, and have already met many parenting goals. Maria says, "I think Healthy Start helps you way, way, way more than you think." Through receiving help as well as giving back to others, Maria and David were able to make friends in the area. "That's another thing Healthy Start does... it connects you to the community."

Maria's Easter Seals Oregon family support worker can see the positive impact of the program during each visit, where Lucero is active and vibrant. The consistent and supportive relationship with their family support worker has really made a difference in the life of this family.





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Oregon receives \$4.8 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$39,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Oregon allocates nearly \$11.3 million in funding for early intervention. This represents a decrease of \$1.6 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Oregon

- There are 150,381 kids in Oregon ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 30,076 Oregon children.
- In Oregon, 19,550 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 2,940 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Pennsylvania

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Pennsylvania.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Talib.**



### Talib, age 5

#### Easter Seals Southeastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Born at 28 weeks, Talib spent the first two months of his life in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. His mother spent quite a bit of time being told all the things he would never do. However, she remained steadfast in her belief that anything is possible.

At five years old, with the support of his mother and Easter Seals, Talib is doing the “impossible”. Once he joined the support classroom for kids with autism, he showed huge improvement. Talib is eager to become more independent. He is now talking, dressing himself and doing many of the typical activities we often take for granted, like pretend play. He is a friendly, affectionate boy who loves to learn and explore.

With the help of his family and Easter Seals, Talib will continue to break boundaries and face a future with endless possibilities.





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Pennsylvania receives \$14.5 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$128,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Pennsylvania allocates nearly \$206 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents an increase of almost \$8 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Pennsylvania

- There are 449,499 kids in Pennsylvania ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 89,899 Pennsylvania children.
- In Pennsylvania, 58,435 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 33,288 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
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## State of Early Intervention: Rhode Island

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Rhode Island.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Fiona.**



### Fiona, age 3

#### Easter Seals New Hampshire, Maine & Rhode Island

Fiona was born with a hand anomaly; she was missing the fingers on her right hand, but her thumb was intact. Shortly after birth, she began a regime of physical and developmental therapy from Easter Seals Rhode Island.

Initially, her family and therapists were concerned Fiona would neglect her right side, but Fiona, displaying an incredible perseverance in such a tiny little girl, defied the odds. Fiona's family and Easter Seals work together to assist Fiona in developing to her full potential and to make her hand more functional. "It hit me one day," explained Fiona's dad, Paul, "I saw Fiona trying to hold her bottle and she couldn't; it was that moment that I realized I would do anything to make sure she could do anything she put her mind to and, with [Easter Seals]'s help, we are right on track, hitting milestones and watching her thrive just as we knew she could."







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Rhode Island receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$19,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Rhode Island allocates \$171,000 in funding for early intervention. This amount represents an increase of almost \$7,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Rhode Island

- There are 36,563 kids in Rhode Island ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 7,312 Rhode Island children.
- In Rhode Island, 4,753 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 3,773 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: South Carolina

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in South Carolina.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Desiree.**



### Desiree, age 5

#### Easter Seals South Carolina

When Desiree first arrived at Easter Seals South Carolina in February of 2010, she was using no words to communicate and her family faced difficulties understanding her needs. In order to improve her daughter's ability to communicate with friends and family, Desiree's mother sought early intervention services from Easter Seals.

After eight months of family training, Desiree has gone from gesturing to using short sentences to communicate what she wants.

Thanks to the tireless work done by Easter Seals early interventionists and her mother and father, Desiree continues to make great strides. In addition to the family training and speech therapy services, Desiree's family has also received vouchers to help cover the cost of day care services, allowing her mother to return to school to continue her education.





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, South Carolina receives \$6 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$53,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** South Carolina allocates \$1.4 million in funding for early intervention.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in South Carolina

- There are 188,609 kids in South Carolina ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 37,721 South Carolina children.
- In South Carolina, 24,519 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 4,625 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: South Dakota

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in South Dakota.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, South Dakota receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$18,500 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** South Dakota allocates \$1.4 million in funding for early intervention. This amount remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in South Dakota

- There are 36,645 kids in South Dakota ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 7,329 South Dakota children.
- In South Dakota, 4,764 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 1,106 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Tennessee

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Tennessee.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Tennessee receives \$8.3 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$63,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Tennessee allocates \$11.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of \$1.3 million between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Tennessee

- There are 258,766 kids in Tennessee ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 51,753 Tennessee children.
- In Tennessee, 33,640 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 4,054 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Texas

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Texas.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Chelsy and Rebekah.**



### Chelsy and Rebeka, ages 4 and 6

**Easter Seals Rio Grande Valley, McAllen**

Chelsy and Rebeka are sisters with special needs who live in McAllen, Texas. Both girls receive therapy to address their multiple disabilities and put them on the path to reach their developmental milestones.

Because she was born prematurely, Rebeka was delayed in reaching various developmental milestones, like crawling, learning to walk and eating solid foods. She had many medical challenges, including trouble with her kidneys and lungs and required a feeding tube at a very young age. Easter Seals Child Development Center integrated therapy into Rebeka's daily routine at school.

Her younger sister, Chelsy receives speech therapy and Easter Seals works with her teacher to provide language development throughout her day.

Because both girls received help early, each is reaching her potential. They have great futures ahead!





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

**Federal funding:** Currently, Texas receives \$40.3 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$356,000 from the previous year.

**State funding:** Texas receives nearly \$33.3 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents an increase of \$660,000 from 2012 to 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Texas

- There are 1,247,792 kids in Texas ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 249,558 Texas children.
- In Texas, 162,897 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 61,215 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### **Sources:**

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Utah

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Utah.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Zeke.**



### Zeke, age 3

#### Easter Seals Goodwill-Northern Rocky Mountain

Zeke was born five weeks prematurely and suffered many complications—doctors didn't think he would survive. Damage to his brain caused hypertonia throughout his body, an abnormal increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch. Zeke's parents were told that because of the extent of the damage, Zeke would most likely have severe cerebral palsy with limited mobility and functionality.

When Zeke was two months old, he started in Easter Seals' Provo Early Intervention Program; he began physical therapy to work on stretching his muscles and decreasing the muscle tension.

A year later, Zeke has continually amazed his parents with his progress. Today, the hypertonia on the left side of Zeke's body is almost completely gone, and his right side has improved significantly as well.

"He's able to pick up and play with toys, feed himself finger foods, and even crawl and stand up. And best of all, he has just started walking all by himself!" His mom said proudly. "It has been a lot of hard work with plenty of ups and downs. I am so proud of Zeke and extremely grateful to Easter Seals for all the help and support they have provided."







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Utah receives \$5.4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$48,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Utah allocates nearly \$10.2 million in funding for early intervention. This amount decreased by about \$60,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Utah

- There are 167,932 kids in Utah ages 0-3 years.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 33,586 Utah children.
- In Utah, 21,831 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 7,118 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Vermont

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify 1.45 million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Vermont.

Through *Make the First Five Count*®, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Vermont receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$18,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Vermont does not have a state allocation for early intervention funding because Part C activities are financed through a broad set of programs.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Vermont

- There are 19,768 kids in West Virginia ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 3,953 Vermont children.
- In Vermont, 2,570 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 790 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Virginia

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Virginia.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Olivia.**



### Olivia, age 5

#### Easter Seals (UCP) Virginia

Olivia was a happy, healthy baby. Then, at six months old, a CT scan revealed that Olivia was bleeding on the left side of her brain and that she had an Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) (an abnormal collection of blood vessels in her brain). The days and weeks after Olivia's surgery were full of doctor appointments and referrals to specialists. One of these referrals was to Easter Seals UCP, Virginia's early intervention program. The early intervention team, alongside her family, set developmental goals for Olivia. During her time in the early intervention program, Easter Seals UCP coordinated the therapy services Olivia received, helped the family locate resources, loaned assistive technology devices to the family, provided support and celebrated Olivia's successes.

Today, Olivia is an energetic five-year-old. She loves playing with other kids, reading books and pretending with her play kitchen set. Although she continues to exhibit qualitative differences in the use of her left and right arms, she has made amazing progress over the years. With the support of Easter Seals UCP and the early intervention she received, Olivia will enter school ready to learn, like every other child her age!





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## The State of Funding

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Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Virginia receives \$10.4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$90,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Virginia allocates \$7.2 million in funding for early intervention. This amount has remained unchanged between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Virginia

- There are 322,913 kids in Virginia ages 0-3 years.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 64,582 Virginia children.
- In Virginia, 41,979 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 13,241 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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## State of Early Intervention: Washington

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Washington.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Georgia.**



### Georgia, age 6

#### Easter Seals Jane's House in Yakima, WA

Georgia is a very social six-year-old, but she has to warm up to you first. She's quiet and reserved until she gets to know you, but once she does, she will not stop talking. She wants to tell you about her favorite friends, teachers, games, colors, songs, and anything else she can think of. She's been attending Easter Seals' Jane's House Child Development Center since 2006, and the Jane's House staff has loved watching her grow up.

Besides being a chatterbox, Georgia also has Celiac Disease, an autoimmune intestinal disorder. Because of the effects of this disorder, she needs a special diet every day, and must have her food prepared separately from the other food at the center. Georgia's mom is extremely grateful that the Jane's House staff is able to accommodate Georgia's special needs. Easter Seals and Georgia's mom are both incredibly excited that she is doing well in school!





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## The State of Funding

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Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Washington receives \$8.8 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$78,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Washington includes funding for Part C as part of a larger set of programs. There is no specific line item for Part C.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Washington

- There are 273,358 kids in Washington ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 54,671 Washington children.
- In Washington, 35,537 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 10,060 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

To learn more, log onto  
**MaketheFirstFiveCount.org** today!



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## State of Early Intervention: West Virginia

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify 1.45 million young children who are at risk for developmental delays—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in West Virginia.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>SM</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



**Kyle, age 9**

### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, West Virginia receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is a slight increase of approximately \$19,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** West Virginia allocates \$3.3 million in funding for early intervention in 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

To learn more, log onto  
**MaketheFirstFiveCount.org** today!

## The Numbers in West Virginia

- There are 63,866 kids in West Virginia ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 12,773 West Virginia children.
- In West Virginia, 8,303 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 4,962 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.







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## State of Early Intervention: Wisconsin

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Wisconsin.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



**Kyle, age 9**

**Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin,  
Milwaukee**

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."







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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Wisconsin receives \$7.1 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$63,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Wisconsin allocates \$5.8 million in funding for early intervention. This remained unchanged between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Wisconsin

- There are 220,591 kids in Wisconsin ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 44,118 Wisconsin children.
- In Wisconsin, 28,677 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 6,131 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)  
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>  
[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>  
[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)  
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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## State of Early Intervention: Wyoming

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify more than one million young children at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—children who will enter school already far behind other kids their age. But with the right treatment and therapy before the age of five, we can change the state of early intervention for thousands of kids in Wyoming.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, Easter Seals is raising awareness and activating the American public to demand that all young children get the support they need before the age of five. Make life better for children in your community—those at risk for autism, developmental delays and other disabilities—and help us achieve \$100 million in additional federal funding for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal program that provides critical services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and to their families.

**Funding for Part C will help kids like Kyle.**



### Kyle, age 9

#### Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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## The State of Funding

Today, it's harder than ever for families to access care, because essential programs to treat young children with disabilities are chronically underfunded and in danger of being scaled back even further this year and in 2014.

Through *Make the First Five Count*, Easter Seals is calling on Congress to protect and grow funding for Part C by \$100 million, for a total of \$539 million, in the years to come.

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Wyoming receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of approximately \$20,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Wyoming allocates \$10.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount has increased by \$270,000 between 2012 and 2013.

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

## The Numbers in Wyoming

- There are 24,844 kids in Wyoming ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 4,968 Wyoming children.
- In Wyoming, 3,230 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 1,149 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR_C-2.xls)

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>

[https://www.ideadata.org/arc\\_toc12.asp#partcCC](https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/13stbyprogram.pdf>

[http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC\\_2012\\_allocations.xlsx](http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx)

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