



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

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*[®], 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 70,000 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://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/moreinfo/pdf/nsch07child.pdf>
https://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc12.asp#partcCC
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/12stbypogram.pdf>

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.