



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT®**

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®*, 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 \$60,000 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.

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

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://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/12stbyprogram.pdf>
http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx

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