



MAKE THE  
**FIRST FIVE  
COUNT**<sup>®</sup>

## 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.





MAKE THE  
**FIRST FIVE  
COUNT**<sup>®</sup>

## 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 \$20,000 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/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.

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