



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

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*[®], 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 \$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://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.

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
MaketheFirstFiveCount.org today!