



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

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*[®], 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 \$30,000 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://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.

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