



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

State of Early Intervention: Maine

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 Maine.

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 Hailey.



Hailey, age 4

Easter Seals New Hampshire, Maine & Rhode Island

Hailey was diagnosed before birth with Spina Bifida. Now four years old, Hailey has made remarkable progress in a short period of time. After multiple surgeries and months in a full-body cast, Hailey can move around better than anyone had ever imagined.

Just before she turned 2, Hailey began to receive physical and occupational therapy at Easter Seals. Within a year of starting early intervention therapy, Hailey has gone from crawling to cruising down the hallway with her walker. As she was learning to use her walker, her therapists placed doll clothing along the hallway and as Hailey worked hard to get from one station to the next she was rewarded with one of her favorite activities, dressing a doll in high-fashion apparel.

Today, Hailey is an amazing bundle of energy who just might be strutting down the runway someday, showing off her incredible sense of style.





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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, Maine 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:** Maine allocates \$27.9 million in funding for all its early education and care services of which Part C is one element. This amount is a decrease of \$128,000 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 Maine

- There are 42,201 kids in Maine ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 8,440 Maine children.
- In Maine, 5,486 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 930 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/12stbyprog
am.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/12stbyprog/am.pdf)

http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx
State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

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