



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

State of Early Intervention: Michigan

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 Michigan.

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 Zach.



Zach, age 10

Easter Seals Michigan

When Zach came to Easter Seals at age six, he knew fewer than 50 words. Of those, he did not use many on a regular basis. Easter Seals outfitted him with an augmentative communication device, and along with speech and occupational therapies, Zach has made significant progress. His language is becoming clearer and he no longer needs a machine to help him communicate.

“He talks so much now, sometimes I have to remind myself how thankful I am that he can speak,” says his mom.

Zach’s personality shines though even more now with his improved speech. He loves to give gifts, play pranks and has a delightful sense of humor. Easter Seals has helped Zach with so much more than language—it has helped him join the world.





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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, Michigan receives \$11.9 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$10,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Michigan includes funding for Part C as part of its special education program. There is no specific line item for Part C.

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 Michigan

- There are 370,025 kids in Michigan ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 74,005 Michigan children.
- In Michigan, 48,103 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 20,235 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!