



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

State of Early Intervention: North Carolina

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 North Carolina.

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 Avery.



Avery, age 6

Easter Seals UCP North Carolina

Corey and Chris enrolled their daughter, Avery, in Easter Seals UCP North Carolina Children's Center when she was two years old. This allowed Avery, who has Down syndrome, to have access to speech, occupational and physical therapy services in an inclusive environment. Thanks to specially trained teachers and therapists, Avery was able to feed herself and drink from a cup within five days of her arrival at the Children's Center. Her inability to feed herself had held her back at her previous school.

Avery's mom, Corey, said, "We love that Avery can be in an environment where she is treated as normally as everyone else in the class, and yet receive high quality specialized services to help her advance."





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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, North Carolina receives \$13 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$11,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** North Carolina allocates nearly \$31.6 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of about \$2.5 million between 2012 and 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 North Carolina

- There are 402,502 kids in North Carolina ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 80,500 North Carolina children.
- In North Carolina, 52,325 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 18,271 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.

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