



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

State of Early Intervention: Ohio

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 Ohio.

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 Shannon.



Shannon, age 14

Easter Seals Central and Southeast Ohio, Columbus

Shannon came to Easter Seals when she was just two years old, with a primary diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy. Since then, she's received physical and occupational therapies and other services to help her walk, learn and take care of her personal needs. Easter Seals has also been there for her to help her attain new strength after her numerous surgeries.

Shannon is now a fiery 14-year-old redhead with a bright future. Thanks to Shannon's hard work and the dedicated staff at Easter Seals, Shannon walks with crutches and can take care of her basic needs. She goes to school with children who don't have disabilities and pours enthusiasm into whatever she does, whether it's playing T-ball, reading a great new book or working to achieve her dream of becoming a ballerina. As Shannon says, "When you want to be a ballerina, you have to work hard, and when you fall down, get back up and try again."





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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, Ohio receives \$14.4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$14,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Ohio allocates \$33.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount remained unchanged 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 Ohio

- There are 446,374 kids in Ohio ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 89,274 Ohio children.
- In Ohio, 58,029 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 14,868 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!