



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

State of Early Intervention: Oklahoma

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 Oklahoma.

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 Karl.



Karl, age 6

Easter Seals Oklahoma

“Our son, Karl, is a very social, energetic, and curious child. His passion for life is contagious and he loves to talk about everything he sees and does. As he was learning to talk, we noticed he was having some difficulty with articulation, which made it hard to understand what he was saying. We would have to ask him to repeat himself several times and often still not understand after repetition. Karl would become very frustrated over not being understood and his speech difficulties began to impact his quality of life. The Speech Therapy Program at Easter Seal's Child Development Center integrates speech therapy into routine daily activities involving both the parents and the teachers. Karl has attended speech therapy weekly for a year and now can be understood almost all of the time. The speech therapy program at Easter Seal's Child Development Center is a truly exceptional comprehensive program.” —Douglas and Kristin, Karl's parents





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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, Oklahoma receives \$5.3 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$40,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Oklahoma allocates \$14.4 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of about \$1 million 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 Oklahoma

- There are 165,496 kids in Oklahoma ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 33,099 Oklahoma children.
- In Oklahoma, 21,514 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 2,770 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.

To learn more, log onto
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