



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

State of Early Intervention: Rhode Island

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 Rhode Island.

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 Fiona.



Fiona, age 3

Easter Seals New Hampshire, Maine & Rhode Island

Fiona was born with a hand anomaly; she was missing the fingers on her right hand, but her thumb was intact. Shortly after birth, she began a regime of physical and developmental therapy from Easter Seals Rhode Island.

Initially, her family and therapists were concerned Fiona would neglect her right side, but Fiona, displaying an incredible perseverance in such a tiny little girl, defied the odds. Fiona's family and Easter Seals work together to assist Fiona in developing to her full potential and to make her hand more functional. "It hit me one day," explained Fiona's dad, Paul, "I saw Fiona trying to hold her bottle and she couldn't; it was that moment that I realized I would do anything to make sure she could do anything she put her mind to and, with [Easter Seals]'s help, we are right on track, hitting milestones and watching her thrive just as we knew she could."





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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, Rhode Island receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$20,600 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Rhode Island allocates \$171,000 in funding for early intervention. This amount represents an increase of almost \$7,000 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 Rhode Island

- There are 36,563 kids in Rhode Island ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 7,312 Rhode Island children.
- In Rhode Island, 4,753 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 3,773 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#partCC
<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!