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## State of Early Intervention: Texas

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 Texas.

Through *Make the First Five Count*<sup>®</sup>, 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 Chelsy and Rebekah.**



### Chelsy and Rebeka, ages 4 and 6

#### Easter Seals Rio Grande Valley, McAllen

Chelsy and Rebeka are sisters with special needs who live in McAllen, Texas. Both girls receive therapy to address their multiple disabilities and put them on the path to reach their developmental milestones.

Because she was born prematurely, Rebeka was delayed in reaching various developmental milestones, like crawling, learning to walk and eating solid foods. She had many medical challenges, including trouble with her kidneys and lungs and required a feeding tube at a very young age. Easter Seals Child Development Center integrated therapy into Rebeka's daily routine at school.

Her younger sister, Chelsy receives speech therapy and Easter Seals works with her teacher to provide language development throughout her day.

Because both girls received help early, each is reaching her potential. They have great futures ahead!





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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, Texas receives \$40.3 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$35,000 from the previous year.

**State funding:** Texas receives nearly \$33.3 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents an increase of \$660,000 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 Texas

- There are 1,247,792 kids in Texas ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 249,558 Texas children.
- In Texas, 162,897 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 61,215 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.

### Sources:

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables34th/AR\\_C-2.xls](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](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](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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