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## State of Early Intervention: Utah

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 Utah.

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 Zeke.**



### Zeke, age 3

#### Easter Seals Goodwill-Northern Rocky Mountain

Zeke was born five weeks prematurely and suffered many complications—doctors didn't think he would survive. Damage to his brain caused hypertonia throughout his body, an abnormal increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch. Zeke's parents were told that because of the extent of the damage, Zeke would most likely have severe cerebral palsy with limited mobility and functionality.

When Zeke was two months old, he started in Easter Seals' Provo Early Intervention Program; he began physical therapy to work on stretching his muscles and decreasing the muscle tension.

A year later, Zeke has continually amazed his parents with his progress. Today, the hypertonia on the left side of Zeke's body is almost completely gone, and his right side has improved significantly as well.

"He's able to pick up and play with toys, feed himself finger foods, and even crawl and stand up. And best of all, he has just started walking all by himself!" His mom said proudly. "It has been a lot of hard work with plenty of ups and downs. I am so proud of Zeke and extremely grateful to Easter Seals for all the help and support they have provided."





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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, Utah receives \$5.4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$50,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Utah allocates nearly \$10.2 million in funding for early intervention. This amount decreased by about \$60,000 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 Utah

- There are 167,932 kids in Utah ages 0-3 years.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 33,586 Utah children.
- In Utah, 21,831 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 7,118 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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