



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

State of Early Intervention: Alaska

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 Alaska.

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 Kyle.



Kyle, age 9

Easter Seals National Youth Representative

Kyle is in third grade at his neighborhood school, and teachers say he may be able to live independently someday - an idea his mom, Stephanie, wasn't sure was possible when he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism.

Kyle's speech had regressed, and more than ever, he preferred playing alone, so Stephanie and Kyle's father, Mike, then began exploring options for improving Kyle's social, communication, learning and daily living skills.

Stephanie says Kyle's progress is a result of the early start he got at Easter Seals. He continues to receive 30 hours of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy each week. "We were able to build such a strong foundation for him," she says. "Without that, I don't think he'd be anywhere near where he is today. We're just so thankful for Easter Seals."





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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, Alaska receives \$2.17 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$20,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Alaska allocates nearly \$7 million in funding for early intervention. State funding increased by \$320,000 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 Alaska

- There are 33,734 kids in Alaska ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 6,746 Alaska children.
- In Alaska, 4,385 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 1,436 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.

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