



MAKE THE  
**FIRST FIVE  
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## State of Early Intervention: Georgia

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 Georgia.

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 Kai.**



### Kai, age 5

#### Easter Seals West Georgia, Columbus

Kai was born with Down syndrome and has had many ups and downs medically. She has been in therapy since she was two months old and started at Easter Seals when she was six months old.

Kai's mom said, "I truly believe Kai has made the progress she has because of the early intervention and daily therapy."

In addition to going to school at Easter Seals, Kai receives speech and physical therapy there. Her mom said that she believes without therapy, Kai wouldn't have been able to learn to walk as quickly as she did. "I would have to say that without her intervention, I am certain that Kai would not be able to do many of the things that she is able to do."

Today, Kai is a very active girl, who loves to sing and dance. She loves to play outside, jump on the trampoline, swing and play with her dolls. She also enjoys singing her ABC'S and counting to 10!





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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, Georgia receives \$14.6 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is a decrease of \$13,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Georgia allocates nearly \$9.7 million in funding for early intervention. This amount decreased by \$135,000 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.

**To learn more, log onto  
MaketheFirstFiveCount.org today!**

## The Numbers in Georgia

- There are 452,427 kids in Georgia ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 90,485 Georgia kids.
- In Georgia, 58,815 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities that will set them back when they start school, yet only 11,947 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)  
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State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.