



MAKE THE  
**FIRST FIVE  
COUNT**<sup>®</sup>

## State of Early Intervention: Indiana

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 Indiana.

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 Abigail.**



### Abigail, age 5

#### Easter Seals Southwestern Indiana

Soon after Abigail was born, she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and developmental delays. She began therapy with the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center when she was two years old. At first, her goals included simply grasping a crayon, increasing her vocabulary to 20 words and speaking two words at a time. Now, at age five, Abigail draws with markers, cuts with scissors and talks a lot!

Abigail recently “graduated” from speech therapy at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. She continues working hard in physical and occupational therapy every week. She’s improving her printing and her walking skills.

### 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.





## MAKE THE FIRST FIVE COUNT®

- **Federal funding:** Currently, Indiana receives \$8.68 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$80,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Indiana allocates \$6.1 million in funding for early intervention. This amount remained unchanged 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 Indiana

- There are 268,753 kids in Indiana ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 67,188 Indiana children.
- In Indiana, 53,750 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 20,447 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>

State funding information provided by a state government official is available upon request.

**Funding for Part C will also help kids like Morgan, Carly and Jude.**



### **Morgan, Carly, Jude, age 5**

Jaime Dockery's triplets were born early, but when they went home from neonatal intensive care, there were no signs of problems. Within a few months, though, Jaime started noticing delays in reaching milestones. Jude and Carly were diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Jude and Morgan both had language processing disorders. From the beginning, the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center has been here for the Dockery family, providing all three children with therapy and therapeutic preschool.

"It has been a true lifesaver!" Jaime said. "With the amount of therapy they need—eight sessions per week, not including therapy during preschool—I can't imagine what we would do without Easter Seals." Now age 5, the triplets are making great progress. "I would like to sincerely thank everyone who supports Easter Seals in any way," said Jaime. "As a mother of three that continue to receive services, I am very grateful to those who help make it possible!"

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