



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

State of Early Intervention: Kansas

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 Kansas.

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 Conner.



Conner, age 4

Easter Seals Capper Foundation, Topeka

Soon after Conner was born, his parents noticed that Conner would only look and turn his head in one direction and quickly sought help. Conner was diagnosed with a condition where half of his brain didn't develop. He spent much of his day napping from the 30+ seizures he had every day.

After surgery that disconnected the problem side of his brain, Conner started to notice the world around him. He was interested in his toys, later took his first steps, and is now walking and running!

Conner's left side is still weak, so occupational therapists at Easter Seals Capper Foundation are working to help him gain use of his left hand and arm and improve his walking abilities, and speech therapists are helping him begin to form sounds.

Now, at age four, Conner is making steady progress in Capper's Kidlink Preschool & Childcare Program. He's making new friends, laughing, smiling and learning to talk!





MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

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, Kansas receives \$4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$40,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Kansas allocates \$5.7 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.

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

The Numbers in Kansas

- There are 125,447 kids in Kansas ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 25,089 Kansas children.
- In Kansas, 16,308 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 7,372 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.