



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

State of Early Intervention: Kentucky

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 Kentucky.

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 Nat.



Nat, age 4

Easter Seals West Kentucky

Many of the child care services at Easter Seals West Kentucky offer early intervention through specialized therapies and education. One of many children who has benefited from intervention and therapy is Nat. He came to Easter Seals with developmental delays when he was just six weeks old, not hitting any of his major developmental milestones.

Today, after receiving speech and physical therapies at the Ethel Dubois Smith Child Development Center, Nat is keeping up with children his own age. He is running, jumping and most recently, calling people and objects by their names.





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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, Kentucky receives \$5.6 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:** Kentucky allocates nearly \$10.8 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of about \$330,000 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 Kentucky

- There are 173,797 kids in Kentucky ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 34,759 Kentucky children.
- In Kentucky, 22,594 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 4,641 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/12stbyprog/am.pdf>

http://www.nectac.org/~xls/IDEA/PartC_2012_allocations.xlsx

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

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