



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT®**

State of Early Intervention: New York

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 New York.

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 Fernando.



Fernando, age 6

Easter Seals Bronx Child Development Center

Born with Down syndrome, Fernando struggled to walk or stand independently and had difficulties with motor skills when he arrived at the Bronx Child Development Center at age two. But a new world opened for Fernando and his family when he learned to eat, walk, and run independently in less than one academic year at Easter Seals.

Fernando continued to grow and develop skills at a remarkable pace last year. He is now able to use sign language to communicate and has become more verbal than before—a true and integral achievement. His teacher reports that he has matured tremendously and his behavior has significantly improved.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication from Fernando's teachers and family, he is ready to enter special education in his public school for the upcoming school year.





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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, New York receives \$24 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$21,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** New York allocates \$164 million for early intervention. This amount represents a decrease of \$3 million 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 New York

- There are 745,143 kids in New York ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 149,028 New York children.
- In New York, 96,869 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 69,590 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!**