



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT®**

State of Early Intervention: Pennsylvania

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 Pennsylvania.

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 Talib.



Talib, age 5

Easter Seals Southeastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Born at 28 weeks, Talib spent the first two months of his life in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. His mother spent quite a bit of time being told all the things he would never do. However, she remained steadfast in her belief that anything is possible.

At five years old, with the support of his mother and Easter Seals, Talib is doing the “impossible”. Once he joined the support classroom for kids with autism, he showed huge improvement. Talib is eager to become more independent. He is now talking, dressing himself and doing many of the typical activities we often take for granted, like pretend play. He is a friendly, affectionate boy who loves to learn and explore.

With the help of his family and Easter Seals, Talib will continue to break boundaries and face a future with endless possibilities.





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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, Pennsylvania receives \$14.5 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$13,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Pennsylvania allocates nearly \$206 million in funding for early intervention. This amount represents an increase of almost \$8 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 Pennsylvania

- There are 449,499 kids in Pennsylvania ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 89,899 Pennsylvania children.
- In Pennsylvania, 58,435 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 33,288 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#partCC
<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
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