



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

State of Early Intervention: South Carolina

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 South Carolina.

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 Desiree.



Desiree, age 5

Easter Seals South Carolina

When Desiree first arrived at Easter Seals South Carolina in February of 2010, she was using no words to communicate and her family faced difficulties understanding her needs. In order to improve her daughter's ability to communicate with friends and family, Desiree's mother sought early intervention services from Easter Seals.

After eight months of family training, Desiree has gone from gesturing to using short sentences to communicate what she wants.

Thanks to the tireless work done by Easter Seals early interventionists and her mother and father, Desiree continues to make great strides. In addition to the family training and speech therapy services, Desiree's family has also received vouchers to help cover the cost of day care services, allowing her mother to return to school to continue her education.





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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, South Carolina receives \$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:** South Carolina allocates \$1.4 million in funding for early intervention.

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 South Carolina

- There are 188,609 kids in South Carolina ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 37,721 South Carolina children.
- In South Carolina, 24,519 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 4,625 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.

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