



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**[®]

State of Early Intervention: Washington

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 Washington.

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 Georgia.



Georgia, age 6

Easter Seals Jane's House in Yakima, WA

Georgia is a very social six-year-old, but she has to warm up to you first. She's quiet and reserved until she gets to know you, but once she does, she will not stop talking. She wants to tell you about her favorite friends, teachers, games, colors, songs, and anything else she can think of. She's been attending Easter Seals' Jane's House Child Development Center since 2006, and the Jane's House staff has loved watching her grow up.

Besides being a chatterbox, Georgia also has Celiac Disease, an autoimmune intestinal disorder. Because of the effects of this disorder, she needs a special diet every day, and must have her food prepared separately from the other food at the center. Georgia's mom is extremely grateful that the Jane's House staff is able to accommodate Georgia's special needs. Easter Seals and Georgia's mom are both incredibly excited that she is doing well in school!





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, Washington receives \$8.8 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$80,000 from the previous year.
- **State funding:** Washington includes funding for Part C as part of a larger set of programs. There is no specific line item for Part C.

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 Washington

- There are 273,358 kids in Washington ages 0-3.
- On average, fewer than 20% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 54,671 Washington children.
- In Washington, 35,537 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 10,060 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!