



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**SM

State of Early Intervention: Maryland

Every year, we as a nation fail to identify 1.45 million¹ 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 Maryland.

Through *Make the First Five Count*SM, 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 Amare.



Amare, age 5

Easter Seals Greater Washington-Baltimore Region

Two years ago, Irena and Matt Smith adopted their three-year-old son, Amare from Ethiopia and were immediately concerned with his critical early childhood education and ensuring his understanding of the English language. They enrolled Amare at Easter Seals. When he started, Amare only understood a little English but could not speak it.

In less than two years at Easter Seals Child Development Center in Silver Spring, Amare has not only mastered the English language, but has also become the most outgoing, attentive and likable kid in his class! “Easter Seals has been the most wonderful thing that has ever happened for Amare and for us,” said Irena. “They have done so much for him socially and developmentally, it’s incredible. It is a consistent, focused and challenging program. We will really miss Easter Seals when he goes to Kindergarten.”





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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 2012.

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, Maryland receives \$7.4 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$122,000 from the previous year.⁴
- **State funding:** Maryland receives \$785,000 in funding for early intervention. This increased by almost \$95,000 between 2010 and 2011.⁵

Investing in early diagnosis and treatment now will save in future care costs—there is no better investment than in our children.

To learn more, log onto
MaketheFirstFiveCount.org today!

The Numbers in Maryland

- There are 231,000 kids in Maryland ages 0-3.^{2,3,4}
- On average, fewer than 25% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 57,750 Maryland children.^{2,3,4}
- In Maryland, 30,030 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 7,178 are currently receiving early intervention services through Part C of IDEA.^{2,3,4}

¹*The National Survey of Children's Health, 2007.* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, (2009). Rockville, Maryland: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved on January 7, 2010, from <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch07>.

^{2,3}<https://www.ideadata.org/PopulationData.asp>

⁴http://www.nectac.org/pubs/titlelist.asp#eifactsheet_2pg.

⁵<http://dbm.maryland.gov/agencies/operbudget/Pages/OperatingBudget.aspx>.

