



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**SM

State of Early Intervention: Virginia

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 Virginia.

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 Olivia.



Olivia, age 4

Easter Seals UCP Virginia

Olivia was a happy, healthy baby. Then, at six months old, a CT scan revealed that Olivia was bleeding on the left side of her brain and that she had an Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) (an abnormal collection of blood vessels in her brain). The days and weeks after Olivia's surgery were full of doctor appointments and referrals to specialists. One of these referrals was to Easter Seals UCP Virginia's early intervention program. The early intervention team, alongside her family, set developmental goals for Olivia. During her time in the early intervention program, Easter Seals UCP coordinated the therapy services Olivia received, helped the family locate resources, loaned assistive technology devices to the family, provided support and celebrated Olivia's successes.

Today, Olivia is an energetic four-year-old. She loves playing with other kids at day care, reading books and pretending with her play kitchen set. Although she continues to exhibit qualitative differences in the use of her left and right arms, she has made amazing progress over the years. With the support of Easter Seals UCP and the early intervention she received, Olivia will enter school ready to learn, like every other child her age!





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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, Virginia receives \$10.3 million from the federal government to support early intervention services under Part C. This is an increase of \$76,000 from the previous year.⁴
- **State funding:** Virginia receives \$7.2 million in funding for early intervention. This has remained unchanged between 2011 and 2012.⁵

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 Virginia

- There are 322,913 kids in Virginia ages 0-3 years.^{2,3,4}
- On average, fewer than 25% of young children are properly screened to identify their special need, or approximately 47,500 Virginia children.^{2,3,4}
- In Virginia, 41,979 kids under the age of 3 are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, yet only 6,288 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>
<http://www.nectac.org/pubs/titlelist.asp#eifactsheet> 2pg.

⁵<http://dpb.virginia.gov/>.

