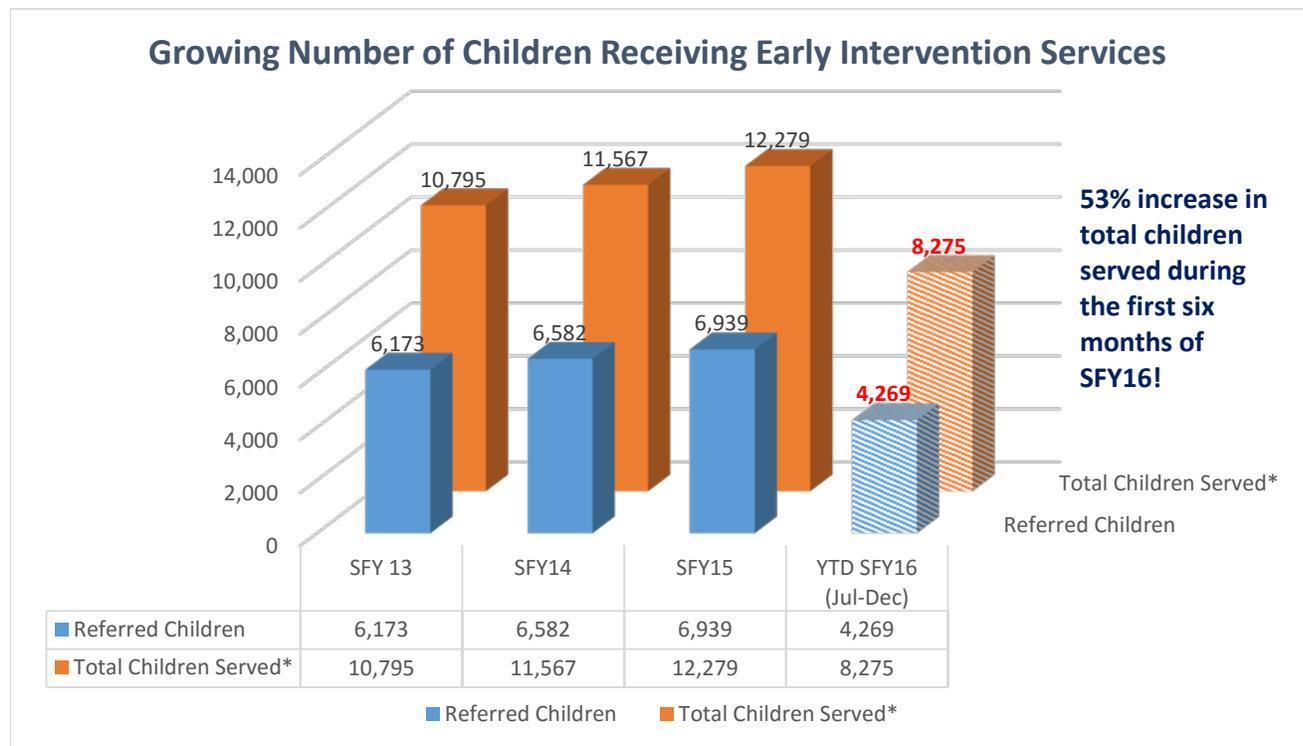


Baby Watch Early Intervention

SFY 2017 Appropriations Request

Early Intervention (EI) is a system of therapeutic services that help infants and toddlers up to age 3, with developmental delays or disabilities by providing high-quality family-centered services to maximize developmental outcomes during their most crucial period of development. EI is authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities, minimize developmental delay and reduce educational costs to society. Services are administered locally in Utah by fifteen programs statewide. Programs are closely monitored for compliance with federal performance indicators, timeframes, practice protocols and state policy. Providers adhere to the highest level of program accountability utilizing the state’s web-based database, “The Baby & Toddler Online Tracking System,” (BTOTS).

Significant growth in the number of young children with moderate to severe developmental delays or established disabilities is surpassing the program’s current service capacity. The number of young children eligible for EI services has increased substantially since additional funding was allocated in SFY14. In the first six months of SFY16, the number of children referred has increased by 38% and the total number served has increased by 53%!



*Total children served includes ALL children in referral, eligibility determination phase prior to enrollment. Not limited to those children enrolled and on IFSP.

Outcomes and Need

- Research shows that EI can decrease future education and health care costs, and improve child outcomes and long-term life outcomes such as productivity and quality of life for families and children.
- **35%** of children exiting EI in the last 3 years made enough progress that they did not require preschool special education services. And, **77%** of those children showed improvement in their knowledge and skills, and their development moved closer to typically developing peers as measured by the Child Outcome Summary process.
- Utah has one of the highest rates for children diagnosed with Autism, and lowest rates of early detection. EI programs conduct universal screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder to improve outcomes through early treatment.

Outcomes for Children Served through Utah’s Baby Watch Early Intervention Program

State’s Early Intervention Programs report data annually on three outcomes:

1. Positive Social Emotional Skills:
2. Acquisition and Use of Knowledge and Skills.
3. Use of Appropriate Behaviors to Meet Their Needs.

In SFY2015, infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities who received services in Utah’s Part C IDEA Baby Watch Early Intervention Program showed greater progress than the national average.

	Utah Percentage	National Percentage
<i>SFY2015</i>		
Positive Social Emotional Skills	70%	66%
Knowledge and Skills	74%	72%
Behaviors to Meet Needs	75%	73%

Source: FFY 2014 Annual Performance Report to OSEP 1.16

Without additional direct-service staff, the opportunity to improve developmental outcomes will be lost.



Proposed Budget SFY17

Statewide BWEIP Budget SFY15

Funding Sources SFY15	Amount	
State	\$12,283,700.00	
Federal	\$5,246,884.86	
Medicaid	\$8,663,482.78	
CHIP	\$348,000.00	
Family Fees	\$434,477.11	
TOTAL	\$26,976,544.75	
<i>Last increase received FY14</i>	<i>\$1,763,700.00</i>	
Requested increase SFY17	\$2,500,000.00	For direct services

- Additional funding will enable local programs to provide needed early intervention services including the following: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language therapy, nursing, audiology, assistive technology, nutrition, service coordination and developmental evaluation to the growing number of children in need of services.
- Funding will be prudently and equitably distributed among 15 local programs statewide using an evidence-based and transparent allocation method to meet the needs of the system, including the children and families served.
- Use of funds will be monitored regularly to ensure that spending is in compliance with contract performance and all federal, state and local fiscal requirements. And, local programs will verify that funds are utilized for direct services in monthly expense reimbursements.

Without additional funding for direct-service staff, the opportunity to improve developmental outcomes will be lost.

- **Grant/contract funding for local programs will be reduced in FY17. Programs will be unable to maintain their current workforce and may face reductions in force, which means laying off direct service providers.**
- **Local programs will be forced to decrease the frequency and intensity of services delivered to families and children. Long-term outcomes and benefits of school readiness, social growth and ultimately, independence, are less likely to be achieved.**

Performance Measures. SFY17 Appropriation Request

IDEA requires states participating in Part C Early Intervention to provide annual data on established performance indicators to the Office of Special Education Program (OSEP). Additional ongoing funding is needed to fund the direct services necessary to maintain the current level of service and performance outcomes.

Annual Performance Report for all Utah EI Programs FFY 2014/SFY 2015

Baby Watch Early Intervention Program	Data from July 1, 2014– June 30, 2015	FFY 2014 Utah State Target	FFY 2014 All Utah Programs	FFY 2015 Utah State Target
Indicator 1: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner.		100%	100%	100%
Indicator 2: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or programs for typically developing children.		91%	95%	92%
Indicator 3: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved; A. Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships); B. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills; (including early language/communication); and C. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.		A. 66% B. 73% C. 74%	A. 70% B. 74% C. 75%	A. 66% B. 73.50% C. 74.50%
Indicator 4: Percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped their family: A. Know their rights; B. Effectively communicate their children's needs; and C. Help their children develop and learn.		A. 85% B. 82% C. 92%	A. 88% B. 86% C. 92%	A. 85% B. 82.50% C. 92.20%
Indicator 5: Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs compared to national data		.84 %	.84%	.85%
Indicator 6: Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs compared to national data		2.15%	2.55%	2.2%
Indicator 7: Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting were conducted within Part C's 45-day timeline.		100%	100%	100%
Indicator 8: Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschools and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including: A. IFSPs with transition steps and services; B. Notification to LEA, if the child is potentially eligible for Part B; and C. Transition conference if child potentially eligible for Part B.		A. 100% B. 100% C. 100%	A. 100% B. 100% C. 99%	A. 100% B. 100% C. 100%

**Numbers reflect average of all 15 early intervention programs statewide. Prepared by Utah Early Intervention Providers Consortium.*

For more information:
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