

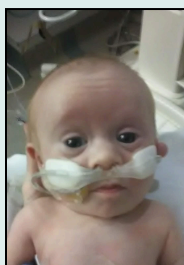
Baby Watch: Sustaining early intervention services

Baby Watch helps infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities catch up to same-age peers, reducing the need for future special education (PreK-12) and community services.

- Special education for infants and toddlers, including in-home services provided by multidisciplinary teams
- 14 local programs serve 15,000+ children per year

\$1.5M
One-time FY27
General Fund

Beckett was born with Down Syndrome and Hirschsprung's Disease, and was exposed to meth during pregnancy. He was about 4lbs at birth, and was in NICU and PCMC for a long period of time. Unfortunately, he suffered abuse and neglect from his biological parents, which included starvation.



Once in foster care, he started to receive Early Intervention (EI) services with physical therapy, speech therapy, and support from the EI social worker. Today at the age of 5, he is talking, can count to 10 with help and runs all around!

— Amy, parent of child

James was born 6 weeks premature and weighed 4 lbs. 4 oz. He received early intervention services from the age of 4 months to 3 years, including physical therapy and speech therapy.



Early intervention empowered our family to support him during his earliest years and we were able to set him up for success as he continued to grow. James never needed to receive special education services in school and is now in college.

— Evan, parent of child

The problem

- Sustainability to meet federal grants Maintenance of Effort (MOE).
- Inadequate funding to provide ongoing services and compensation for providers to meet developmental needs of the children.
- Medicaid unwinding has led to a significant increase in services for children paid for with State General funds in the past 3 years.

Without \$1.5M one-time funding

- Baby Watch will NOT meet the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) federal grant requirement.
- Baby Watch services are in jeopardy.