



EARLY INVESTMENT STRONGER FUTURES

Children enrolled in IDEA Part C Early Intervention birth to three demonstrated improved social-emotional skills, knowledge and behaviors- with...about one half catching up to a level appropriate for their age. -2022 ECTA

There is an urgent need for additional state funding for Part C Baby Watch Early Intervention to guarantee that families of children with developmental delays receive the specialized support critical for their growth and success.



THE PROBLEM:

- **Funding has remained flat.** While costs and children served have increased, frequency and intensity of home visits have been limited by budget constraints.
- **Programs cannot meet federal "Child Find" mandates,** leaving many eligible children undetected until kindergarten where they require costlier special education.
- **Utah funds only provide 1.7 hours per month per child** versus the 5 hour national average.



THE SOLUTION: \$4.5M ONGOING INVESTMENT

Additional investment is necessary to address years of unfunded growth.

- Identify and serve more children early, when intervention is most effective and least costly.
- Improve outcomes for Utah's most vulnerable infants and toddlers.
- Increase monthly visits to meet individual child service needs.
- Give 15,000+ Utah children the best start, while meeting federal requirements.
- Strengthen professional workforce, with competitive wages.

THE NUMBERS:

15,764 CHILDREN STATEWIDE

were provided critical services by highly educated early intervention providers this year.

47% OF THE CHILDREN

who exited the program avoided the necessity for future special education services.

\$10,700,000 SAVED

ANNUALLY by Part C Early Intervention.

9% DECREASE

in the per child early intervention funding— while costs to hire qualified professionals and overall operational costs continue to rise.

8 YEARS

since the last reimbursement rate increase for Part C Early Intervention services.

DID YOU KNOW WE:

- Are special education for children from birth to age three
- Can not allow a waitlist.
- Must determine eligibility and set a service plan within 45 days from referral.
- Offer evaluations to every child with a substantiated case referred from DCFS
- Screen every child for health, hearing and vision problems.
- Provide physical, occupational, speech therapy, nursing and social work in the home.

THIS \$4.5 M ONGOING INVESTMENT ENSURES \$10.7M SAVINGS IN PART B SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS, INVEST NOW-SAVE LATER.

Cited Sources:

