

Archived Information

INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DISABILITIES—IDEA PART C

Goal: Family and child outcomes are enhanced by early intervention services, and states provide a comprehensive system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.	Funding History (\$ in millions)			
	Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Fiscal Year	Appropriation
Legislation: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C.	1985	\$0	2000	\$375
	1990	\$80	2001	\$384
	1995	\$316	2002 (Requested)	\$384

Program Description

The Part C, Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities program is a formula grant program that assists states in implementing statewide systems of coordinated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, interagency programs to make available early intervention services to all children with disabilities, aged birth through two, and their families. Under the program, states are responsible for ensuring that services are made available to all birth-through-two-year olds with disabilities, including Indian children and their families residing on reservations geographically located in the state.

Infants and toddlers with disabilities are defined as children who: (1) are experiencing developmental delays, as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more of the following areas: cognitive development, physical development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development; or (2) have a diagnosed physical or mental condition which has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay. Within statutory limits, "developmental delay" has the meaning given the term by each state. In addition, states have the discretion to provide services to infants and toddlers who are at risk of having substantial developmental delays if appropriate early intervention services are not provided.

Funds allocated under the IDEA, Part C program can be used to: (1) maintain and implement the statewide systems of coordinated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and interagency programs; (2) fund direct early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities that are not otherwise provided by other public or private sources; (3) expand and improve services that are otherwise available; (4) provide a free appropriate public education, in accordance with Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to children with disabilities from their third birthday to the beginning of the following school year; and (5) initiate, expand, or improve collaborative efforts related to identifying, evaluating, referring, and following-up on at-risk infants and toddlers in states that do not provide direct services for these children. Allocations are based on the number of children in the general population aged birth through 2 years.

Program Performance

OBJECTIVE 1: ALL INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL RECEIVE EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS THAT MEET THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.

Indicator 1.1 Infants and toddlers served: The percentage of children ages birth through 2 who are served under Part C will increase as a proportion of the general population in this age range, while the number of states that serve less than 2 percent of the general population of the state in this age range will decrease.					
Targets and Performance Data				Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	
	Part C count as percentage of 0-2 U.S. population		Less than 2 percent of state's population		
1997-98:	1.69%		39 states		
1998-99:	1.59%	Continuous improvement	40 states	Continuous improvement	
1999-00:	1.79%	1.61%	36	38 states	
2000-01:		1.81%		35 states	
2001-02:		1.83%		33 states	
<p>Status: Target exceeded.</p> <p>Explanation: Data indicate that States were serving 1.79 percent of the population of children ages birth through two in 1999-2000 compared with 1.59 percent in the prior year. The number of States serving less than 2 percent of the State's population decreased from 40 to 36. Because the targets were exceeded in both areas of the indicator, the targets for the future years have been adjusted accordingly (upward for the percentage of 0-2 population, and downward for the number of States).</p>					
<p>Source: State data reports. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> 2000-01. <i>Date to be reported:</i> 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by ED attestation process and ED Standards for Evaluating Program Performance Data.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: When the original baseline was established, this indicator included data from only the 50 states and the District of Columbia because of the lack of general population data for Puerto Rico and the outlying areas. Also, varying data collection methods and definitions among states may cause unpredictable variations in counts.</p>					
Indicator 1.2 Infants under 1 year of age served: The percentage of children under 1 year of age served under Part C, as a proportion of the general population in this age range, will increase, while the number of states that serve less than 1 percent of the general population of the state in this age range will decrease.					
Targets and Performance Data				Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	
	Percent of the general U.S. population		Less than 1.0 percent of state's population*		
1997-98:	0.89%		39 states		
1998-99:	0.79%	Continuous improvement	38 states	Continuous improvement	
1999-00:	0.93%	0.80%	36	35 states	
2000-01:		0.94%		34 states	
2001-02:		0.95%		33 states	
<p>Status: Positive movement towards target.</p> <p>Explanation: Nationally, 0.93 percent of the population ages birth through two were being served in 1999-2000, up from 0.79 percent the prior year.</p>					
<p>Source: State data reports. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> 2000-01. <i>Date to be reported:</i> 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by Dept. of ED attestation process and ED Standards for Evaluating Program Performance Data.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned improvement: When the original baseline was established, this indicator included data from only the 50 states and the District of Columbia, because of the lack of general population data for Puerto Rico and the outlying areas. Also, varying data collection methods and definitions among states may cause unpredictable variations in counts.</p>					
<p>*Note: The methodology for measuring the second part of this indicator has been changed from the prior year's measure of "less than 0.3 percent" because only one State is now serving less than 0.3 percent of its population in this age range. The new threshold of 1.0% reflects a more meaningful target over the next several years.</p>					

Indicator 1.3 Service settings: The percentage of children receiving age-appropriate services primarily in home, in community-based settings, and in programs designed for typically developing peers will increase.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	<p>Status: Positive movement toward target.</p> <p>Explanation: This measure provides an indication of the extent to which infants and toddlers are receiving services in the natural environment. Because there is a one-year lag in the availability of this data after collection, the data that became available in 2000 is for 1998-99 rather than for the reporting year 1999-2000. These data indicate that there is a continuing positive trend toward the target.</p>	<p>Source: State-reported data. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> 1999-00. <i>Date to be reported:</i> 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Data validated by an experienced data collection contractor.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: ED is pursuing strategies to decrease the time lags between collection, reporting, and availability of data.</p>
1995-96:	56%			
1996-97:	58%			
1997-98:	63%			
1998-99:	67%			
1999-00:	No Data Available	67%		
2000-01:		69%		
2001-02:		71%		

Indicator 1.4 Referral to services: The percentage of children leaving Part C services with referral to preschool or other services will increase.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	<p>Status: Unable to judge.</p> <p>Explanation: Children who leave Part C services <i>without</i> referrals include children whose eligibility for Part B services is not determined, and children who are found ineligible for Part B services but are not referred elsewhere . Because there is a one-year lag in the availability of this data after collection, the data that became available in 2000 is for 1998-99 rather than for the reporting year 1999-2000. These data represent the baseline for this indicator. Targets have been added for 1999-00 and 2000-01.</p>	<p>Source: IDEA state-reported data. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> 1999-00. <i>Date to be reported:</i> 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Data to be validated by an experienced data collection contractor.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: ED is pursuing strategies to decrease the time lags between collection, reporting, and availability of data. New state data requirement typically requires 5 years to achieve reliability.</p>
1998-99:	65%	No specific target set		
1999-00:	No Data Available	No specific target set		
2000-01:		69%		
2001-02:		70%		

OBJECTIVE 2: CHILDREN'S FUNCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS ENHANCED BY EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES.

Indicator 2.1 Functional abilities: The percentage of children participating in the Part C program who demonstrate improved and sustained functional abilities will increase.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	<p>Status: Unable to judge.</p> <p>Explanation: A contract to obtain data is under way. Data collected in 2003-04 will provide the baseline for this indicator.</p>	<p>Source: National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study. <i>Frequency:</i> Twice, with a 3-year interval. <i>Next collection update:</i> 2003-2004. <i>Date to be reported:</i> 2005.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by ED attestation process and ED <u>Standards for Evaluating Program Performance Data</u>.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Because data are obtained from a longitudinal survey, updates will occur slowly.</p>
1998-99:	No Data Available	No specific target set		
1999-00:	No Data Available	No target set		
2000-01:		No target set		
2003-04:		Baseline to be set		
2006-07:		No target set		

Indicator 2.2 Family capacity: The percentage of families that report that early intervention services have increased their family's capacity to enhance their child's development will increase.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	<p>Status: Unable to judge.</p> <p>Explanation: Baseline data that was collected in 1997-98 and that became available in 2000 indicate that 72 percent of families report that early intervention services have increased their capacity to enhance their child's development. These data were obtained from families approximately 6 weeks after beginning to receive early intervention services. Additional interim information will be available from data collected on this same item after families receive services for 1 and then 2 years (for those families who continue to receive services).</p>	<p>Source: National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study. <i>Frequency:</i> 5-year interval. <i>Next collection update:</i> 2001-02. <i>Date to be reported:</i> 2003.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Data to be validated by internal review procedures of an experienced data collection contractor.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Because data are obtained from a longitudinal survey, updates will occur slowly.</p>
1997-98:	72%			
1998-99:	No Data Available	No target set		
1999-00:	No Data Available	No target set		
2000-01:		No target set		
2002-03:		80%		