

2018-2019

A photograph of four young boys standing outdoors, smiling and cheering with their arms raised. The boy on the far left is wearing a blue camouflage jacket. The boy in the center is wearing a grey and black hoodie with a white geometric logo on the chest. The boy to his right is wearing a blue t-shirt with a green and blue graphic. The boy on the far right is wearing a dark jacket and a grey paper hat. The background shows trees and a building under a clear sky.

Pennsylvania State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) for Early Intervention

Annual Report Submitted to the Governor

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning administers the Early Intervention program in Pennsylvania.

Vision Statement

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning supports families and their children, from prenatal through school age, by using data, research, and stakeholder guidance to assure high-quality services.

Mission Statement

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning provides families with access to high-quality services to prepare children for school and life success.

Message From the Co-Chair of the State Interagency Coordinating Council

Dear Governor Wolf,

As Parent Co-Chair of the State Interagency Coordinating Council and a proud mom of a Pennsylvania Early Intervention graduate, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your amazing dedication to high quality Early Childhood Educational opportunities for ALL children. When we first found out twelve years ago that our son, Alex, had Down syndrome, we were devastated. Luckily, we were immediately introduced to our incredible Early Intervention team who changed our world. They taught us how to believe that with the right supports, there wasn't anything that Alex wouldn't be able to do. Alex is now 100% included in a regular education sixth-grade classroom at our neighborhood middle school. He is following the sixth-grade curriculum, making Distinguished Honor Roll, participating in intramural activities, and just having lots of fun.

Over the past three years, Alex has been sharing his incredible journey with educators and legislators all over our state. During the summer, Alex, along with his sister and math teacher, presented at the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) conference in Washington D.C. He inspired educators and administrators

from across the country to rethink how and where they are providing instruction. Alex also shared his story at an international

Down syndrome conference at the United Nations Headquarters. Over the next year, Alex will continue to share Pennsylvania's success through presentations in Colorado and Montana.

As I reflect on our journey with Alex, I can't help but think that none of this would have been possible without the strong foundation that Alex and our whole family received through Early Intervention supports and services.

Thank you again for your administration's unwavering commitment to high quality Early Childhood Education for ALL children!

Sincerely,

Cecilia Lee

Parent and SICC Co-Chair



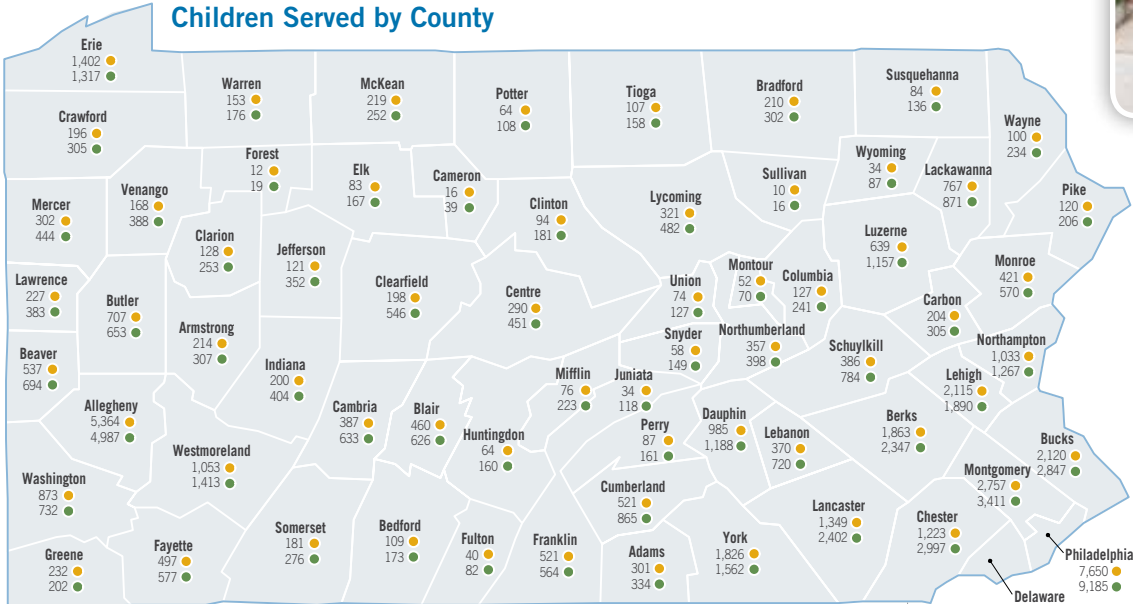
Early Intervention in Pennsylvania

Early Intervention in Pennsylvania consists of services and supports designed to help families with children who have developmental disabilities or delays. Children ages 0-5 who have been found eligible are supported in their natural learning environment to the maximum extent possible.

Below are the number of children found eligible in the fiscal year 2018-2019.



Children Served by County



	Total Children Served:	
● Infant/Toddler = Children birth through 2 years of age, inclusive	45,024 102,971 Total
● Preschool = Children ages 3 to age of beginner	57,947

When I noticed a delay with Sloane, I immediately reached out for help. Sloane began receiving services and supports at child care to implement strategies in her daily routine. The weekly session notes provided me with information on her progress and recommendations for home. It's been a joy to implement strategies and watch my sweet Sloane blossom. I am so appreciative of the support we've received!

**Amira Hill-Yancy,
Philadelphia County**



Early Intervention Supports and Services

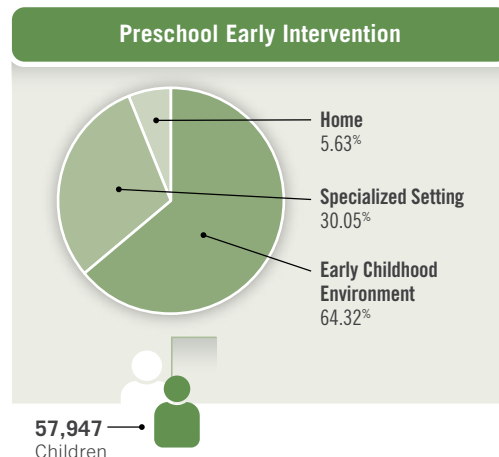
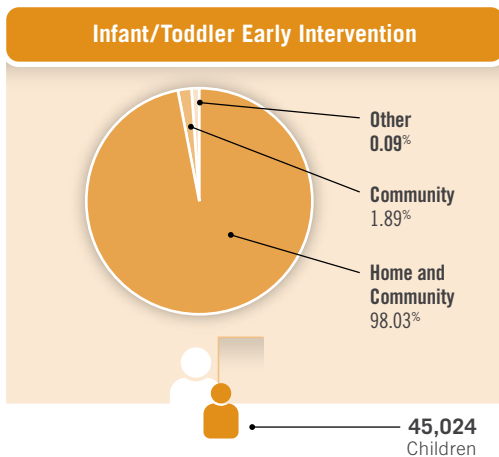
Early Intervention supports and services are embedded within learning opportunities that exist in the child's typical routines, within the home and community activities and/or early education programs.

Early childhood inclusion embodies the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society.

The best thing for families to know about Early Intervention is getting started early! We truly believe Kaitlyn's development is where it is today because of Early Intervention. Families should also know the transition at age three to Preschool doesn't have to be "scary," but might be different. Kaitlyn made tremendous progress receiving all her Early Intervention Preschool services in an inclusive classroom at the Lower Southampton Early Learning Center.

**Tricia Forsyth,
Bucks County**

Location Where Services are Provided



Note:

Home and community means that the majority of the services are in a combination of home and community settings.

Infant/Toddler = Children birth through 2 years of age, inclusive

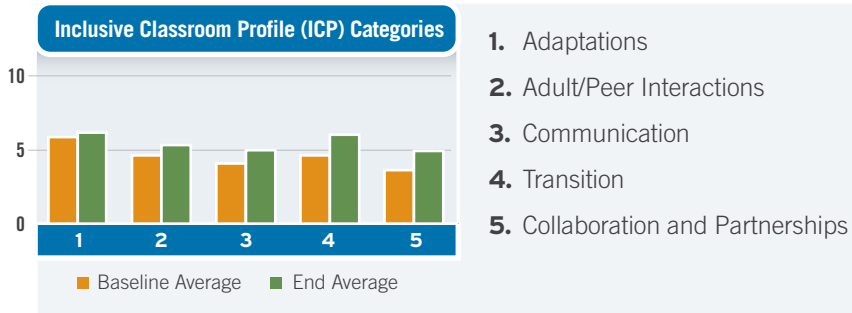
Preschool = Children ages 3 to age of beginner

Focused Technical Support

Grants for technical assistance were awarded to Infant/Toddler and Preschool Early Intervention Programs for FY 2018-19. Reflecting Office of Child Development and Early Learning priorities, the grants addressed the following areas of focus:

- Inclusive Practices
- Positive Behavior Supports
- Coaching Strategies for Caregivers in the Home

Several measures were used to track the effectiveness of these grants. For example, in the inclusive practices award, the Inclusive Classroom Profile (ICP) was used. The ICP is a nationally recognized structured observation rating scale designed to assess classroom practices that support the needs of children with disabilities in inclusive early childhood settings. The ICP categories are:



As a result of technical assistance and training provided through the grant, improvements were made from the beginning to end of the year across all items, with the greatest improvements noted in adaptation and transition.



Teaching in an inclusion classroom for the past few years has taught me so much. It has helped me to learn how to meet the needs of all of the students in my classroom. Inclusion also allows children to learn so much more than just academics. It provides them with an opportunity to learn important social skills. I can't wait to see how the future provides more opportunities for inclusion for all children in all environments.

**Christie Cohen, PreK
Counts Teacher, Bucks IU**



Funding for Early Intervention Services

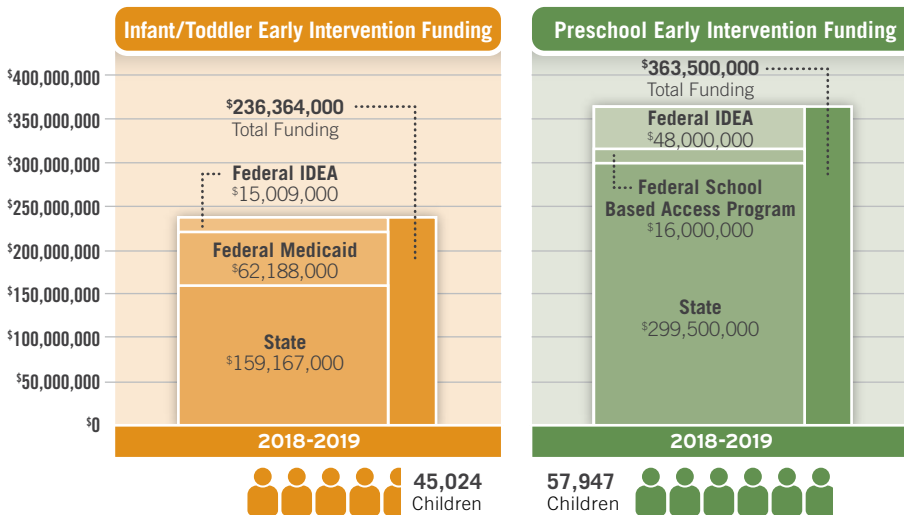
Funding for Early Intervention services and supports is derived from a variety of sources, including federal, state, and local funds. Pennsylvania's commitment to Early Intervention is evident through ongoing support of funding services for children and families.

Los servicios de intervención temprana trajeron esperanza y empatía a nuestras vidas. Nuestras terapeutas realmente escucharon nuestras preocupaciones y nos mostraron como promover el desarrollo de Olivia en nuestras actividades diarias, haciendo que sea facil, divertido y simple de implementar. Mis metas para ella se volvieron nuestras metas. Olivia ha avanzado muchísimo desde que empezamos los servicios y miramos al futuro con alegría y esperanza gracias a los servicios que hemos recibido.

**Julieta Calvano,
Chester County**

See page 7 for English translation

2018-2019 Early Intervention Enacted Appropriation Amount*



Note:

Federal funds include Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Medical Assistance funds.

*Enacted appropriation amounts do not necessarily reflect total spending. In addition to federal and state funds approximately \$10 million in county funds was utilized to support Infant Toddler Early Intervention.

Infant/Toddler = Children birth through 2 years of age, inclusive

Preschool = Children ages 3 to age of beginner

State Interagency Coordinating Council Members

Mr. Michael Cortez

*Executive Director
Senate Health and Human Service
Committee*

Mr. Carl Beck

*Director
Bureau of Early Intervention Services and
Family Supports
Office of Child Development and Early
Learning*

Ms. Kate McKinnon (Co-chair)

*Associate Professor of Education
Pennsylvania State University*

Mr. Jason McCre

*Program Manager, Division of Community
Systems
Development & Outreach
Bureau of Family Health
Department of Health*

Ms. Britany Nolan

*Executive Policy Specialist
Office of Policy Development
Department of Human Services*

Ms. Tracey Campanini

*Deputy Secretary
Office of Child Development and Early
Learning*

Ms. Breanna Wilkerson

*Human Services Program Specialist
Department of Human Services - CHIP*

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*Executive Director
Education and Development
REDI Early Intervention Services*

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Parent Representative

Ms. Sandi Dinardi

*Special Education Director
Tuscarora IU 11*

Ms. Ashley McCahan

*Deputy Director
Legislative Affairs,
Department of Human Services*

Dr. Sandhya Iyengar

*Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*

Ms. Aleasha Freeman

*Infant Toddler Early Intervention
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Delaware County*

Ms. Deborah Shemansky

*Preschool Early Intervention Supervisor
Hazleton School District*

Ms. Wendy King

*Executive Director
Mercer County Head Start*

Ms. Carmen Medina

*Division Chief and State Director
Pennsylvania's Education for Children
and Youth
Experiencing Homelessness Program
Pennsylvania Department of Education*

Ms. Bridgette Campbell

Parent Representative

Early Intervention came into our lives bringing us hope and empathy. Our interventionists really heard our concerns and showed us how to best support Olivia's development in our day-to-day activities, making it easy, fun, and simple to implement. My goals for her became our goals. She has come such a long way since we started services, and we look forward to the future with joy and hope thanks to the supports we have been receiving.

**Julieta Calvano,
Chester County**

See page 6 for Spanish translation

SICC is a Governor-appointed council that advises and assists the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Department of Human Services. SICC ensures that a comprehensive system of integrated Early Intervention programs and services is available in Pennsylvania to all eligible infants, toddlers, and young children and their families. The vision is a system that supports, not supplants, the family's responsibility of caring for their children and supports all children as active participants in the community as children first, not disability first, with attention to necessary adaptations. SICC supports the concept of inclusion for all children.

