

## **Need for Comparison Study regarding the Provision of *Early On*® Michigan Early Intervention Services**

Research has demonstrated that 42% of infants and toddlers who have participated in early intervention services in the United States no longer require special education at kindergarten (National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study (NEILS), 2007). We know that the cost of financing special education in Michigan averages just over \$13,800 per pupil annually statewide (Citizens Research Council of Michigan, 2012). Additionally, we know that promotion of school readiness results in enhanced educational performance, reduction in anti-social behavior, a healthier life, and the accompanying economic benefits to taxpayers (Wilder Research, 2015).

The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center's *Outcomes of Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families* (2011) states:

- *Early Intervention services to young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays have been shown to positively impact outcomes across developmental domains, including language/communication, cognitive development, and social/emotional development.*
- *Families benefit by being able to better meet their child's special needs from an early age and throughout their lives.*
- *Benefits to society include reducing economic burden through a decreased need for special education.*

Unfortunately, the full benefit of early intervention services is not available to infants and toddlers in Michigan. The State of Michigan Auditor General's Performance Audit of *Early On* found that Michigan did not ensure the provision of a comprehensive selection of early intervention services delivered by qualified personnel to all eligible infants and toddlers and their families. The report cites lack of funding as a common concern expressed throughout their investigation (Michigan Office of the Auditor General, 2013).

Nationally, state and local sources make up 69% of funding for Part C services, with federal (Part C and Medicaid) sources providing 31%. Additionally, most states report that they have a state Part C appropriation and six states report that they receive both a State Part C appropriation and State General Funds (ITCA Finance Survey, 2014).

**Knowing the potential of early intervention to promote positive outcomes for children and families as well as the economic advantage for society and taxpayers, Michigan's Children and the *Early On* Michigan Foundation are seeking proposals to conduct a study to support understanding of peer state contributions to early intervention systems and costs avoided in the provision of early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers and their families. Such a study would provide information on peer states, including state allocations to their Part C systems, and the potential public costs to be avoided if Michigan were to adequately fund early intervention. This cost avoidance analysis would support important state leadership and public policy decision-making.**

The deadline for completion of the study is August 30, 2016. Inquiries may be directed to Christy Callahan, *Early On* Michigan Foundation, 517-668-0185 or [CCallahan@EarlyOnFoundation.org](mailto:CCallahan@EarlyOnFoundation.org).