



Early On Michigan Provides Crucial Support to Families

Early On provides early intervention services to all eligible families with infants and toddlers who have a delay in development or a medical condition that is likely to result in a delay.

Early On professionals partner with families and caregivers to teach skills for supporting their child's unique developmental needs. Intervention is offered from birth to age three when children's brains are experiencing rapid development and foundations for lifelong success are laid.

While it is estimated that approximately **15 percent** of children have a developmental delay or disability that would make them eligible for *Early On*, Michigan only serves **6 percent** of children with early intervention services.

In the U.S., the average per-child state investment to provide early intervention services is \$7,289. Michigan allocates only \$879 per child.

In 2024, the Michigan Department of Education commissioned a cost study, conducted by the American Institutes for Research, which found that *Early On* is funded at a small fraction of the cost to implement a high-quality system. Specifically, the study found that *Early On* needs a significant increase in funding paired with system improvements to more adequately serve eligible children and families across the state.

Early On improves child outcomes while saving taxpayer dollars.

Children served by *Early On* showed demonstrable improvements, with 3 out of 4 children showing improvements in acquisition and use of knowledge and skills. And, studies show that **46% of children enrolled in early intervention do not need special education at kindergarten entry**, resulting in significant savings in K-12.



The *Early On* Coalition's Ask:

An increase of \$24 million in state funding for Sec. 54d to \$48 million would help to ensure families with infants and toddlers with developmental delays and medical conditions receive the high quality early intervention services they need.

Of the \$24 million in new funds, it is recommended that \$300,000 be set-aside as a **one-time appropriation** to establish a task force. The charge of the task force will be to review the consistency of service provision and eligibility requirements, personnel standards, policy, and funding, and identify solutions to support maximum quality and efficiency in the *Early On* system. The mandate would be to complete the work and report its formal recommendations to the administration and legislature within two fiscal years (by FY28).

This document was developed by Michigan's *Early On* Coalition, which is part of the Think Babies Michigan prenatal-to-three Coalition. The *Early On* Coalition works toward a future where babies and toddlers have full access to high quality early intervention.



For questions, references, or additional information, please visit www.EarlyOnFoundation.org or contact us at: EarlyOnFoundation@gmail.com