



FLORIDA'S INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
for infants & toddlers

FICCIT - WWW.FLORIDAICC.ORG

Mission Statement

The mission of the Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers is to enhance opportunities for Florida's infants and toddlers with special needs and their families.



State of Florida Early Intervention Services

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers Members:

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**42,638 Children Received Early Steps Services
in Florida During the Past Year**





April 2, 2013

Dear Governor Scott and Fellow Stakeholders:

The Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT) is pleased to submit this annual report for Early Steps, Florida's birth to three system for children with special needs. The FICCIT is charged by federal law to advise and assist the Early Steps state office in making decisions that affect Florida's system of early intervention. This report covers the period from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

Early Steps is a collaborative partnership between providers, families, local Early Steps, state agencies and the Council to provide services for infants and toddlers with established conditions or developmental delay that supports children's well-being and development where they live, learn, and play.

In these difficult economic times when funds are limited, we hope that this report will serve as a reminder of early intervention's positive impacts on children, families and ultimately the state of Florida. On behalf of Florida's infants and toddlers and their families, we thank you for your continued support of Early Steps.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patricia Grosz

Dr. Patricia Grosz
FICCIT Chair

early steps



early growth... early help... early steps

**These Stories Illustrate the Impact Early Steps Has
in the Lives of the Families We Serve**



“When Bennett was born 19 years ago, I never imagined that his life could be as full as it is today. I truly believe that it was this program that provided the initial positive support, excellent services and firm commitment that has made his successes possible. They helped our family start off on the right path to helping Bennett succeed.”

~ Bennett’s Story

“Before we began therapy through Early Steps with Abigail, we did not know where to begin and how we would ever get back to the family we once were. But we did and we are a stronger better family since then. Early Steps is helping us make sure Abigail is on her way to a strong, amazing independent life.”

~ Abigail’s Story



“Because of Early Steps we can now understand and play more with our children. Damien has learned to better interact with us and the whole family. Both our boys can now communicate better. We have learned to not see it as a weakness but rather as a strength and to learn and work with him to benefit the whole family, immediate and distant.”

~ Damien’s Story

“My son was born very premature... only 1 lb. My life was very busy with medicines, treatments, and keeping Isaiah breathing. Early Steps helped me keep my sanity. He is finally sitting up, does a commando crawl, can play with toys, and hold objects. My family has support with Early Steps to get Isaiah to do everything he can do.”
~ Isaiah’s Story

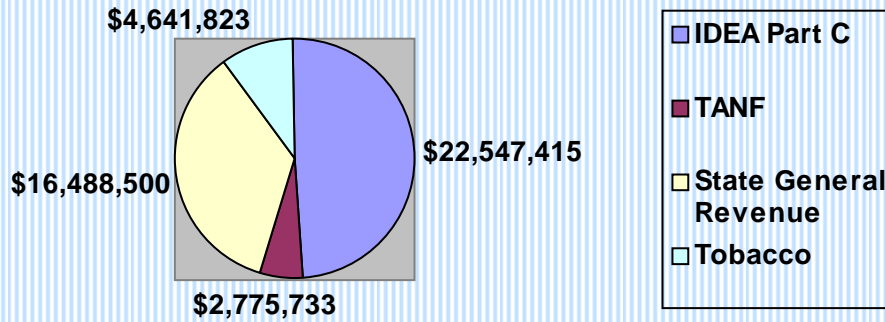


“Before Early Steps entered our life, we had been a family of 4 with healthy kids and a pretty typical life. Our son was born with very complex medical and developmental needs and everything changed. Early Steps helped us to transition from reacting to these changes towards a proactive mentality, advocating and cheering our child onward. He is now walking, attempting new play techniques, eating some food by mouth, signing, and trying to speak. He still struggles with medical and physical challenges but is moving forward every day.”
~ Maddox’s Story

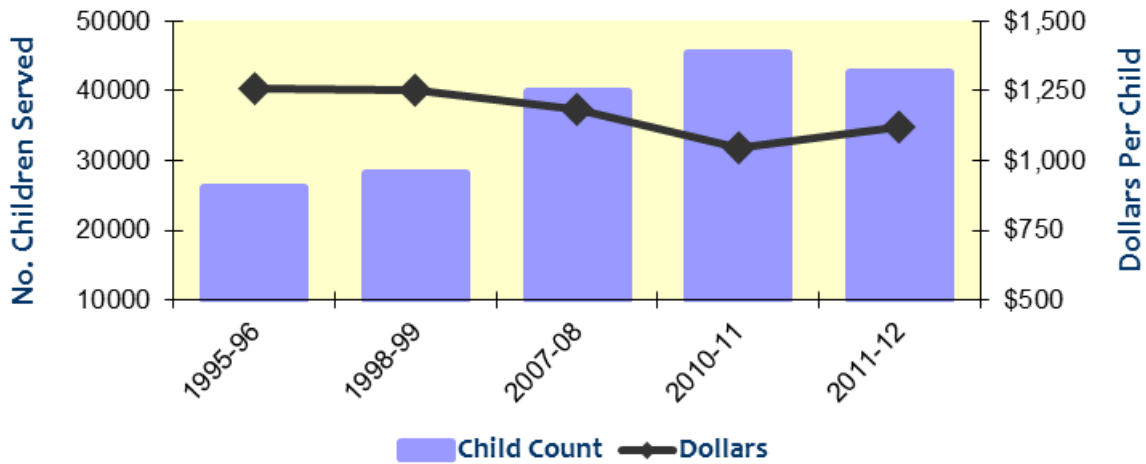
“Early Steps was the biggest help we could ever ask for. Without all of the people there, I would not have known how to get Laney the services she needed. It would have been too overwhelming, but from the minute Laney went to Early Steps, she received a Service Coordinator who was with us every step of the way.”
~ Laney’s Story



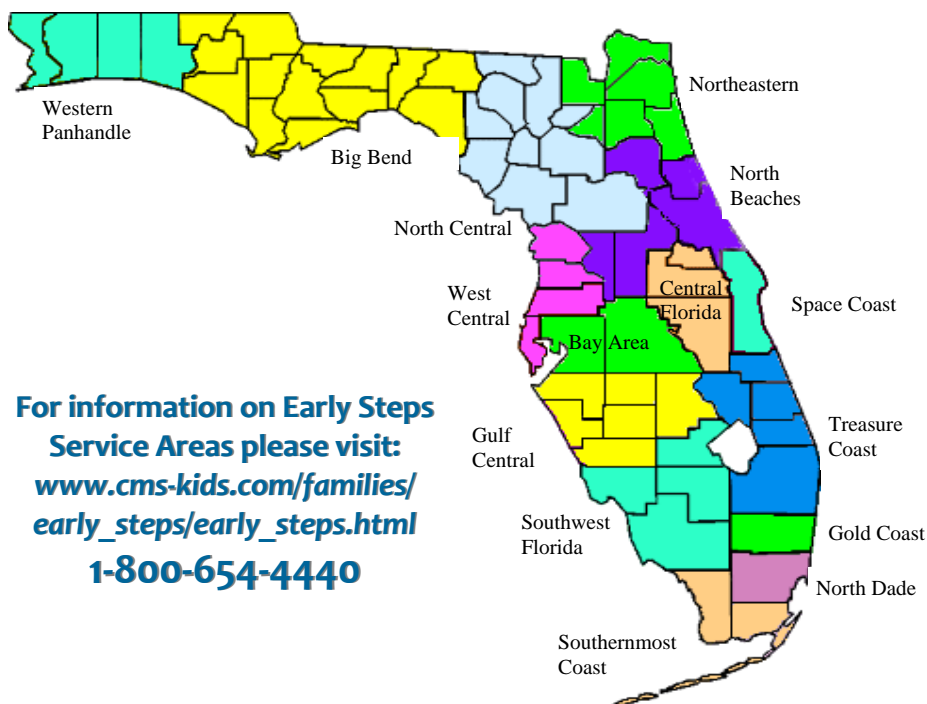
2011-2012 Funding by Source



Early Steps Historical Total Budget Authority Dollars per Child



95% of Funding Goes Directly to Services for Florida Families



By Independent Survey, 89% of Our Families Report That Early Intervention Services Have Helped Their Family Help Their Child Grow