

Early Intervention Services and Supports in Pennsylvania

Early Intervention in Pennsylvania consists of services and supports designed to help families with children who have developmental delays. Early intervention builds upon the natural learning occurring in those first few years. It is a process that promotes collaboration among parents, service providers, and others significantly involved with the child.

Early Intervention:

- Helps children with disabilities develop and learn to their fullest potential;
- Enhances each family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of their child in the settings where children would be if they did not have a disability;
- Respects the family's strengths, values, diversity and competencies and answers families' questions about their child's development;
- Supports communities to become more aware of the gifts and abilities of all its children;
- Helps prevent the need for more and costly intervention in the future;
- Develops early intervention practitioners' skills to work collaboratively with families, caregivers, and educators to help children grow and learn.

Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Each year in the United States, more than 12,000 babies are born with a hearing loss, the most frequently occurring condition identified through newborn screening. Left undetected, hearing impairments in infants can negatively impact speech and language acquisition, academic achievement, and social and emotional development. If detected early, however, these negative impacts can be diminished and even eliminated through treatment and early intervention. Pennsylvania's Infant Hearing Education, Assessment, Reporting and Referral (IHEARR) Act (Act 89 of 2001) empowers the Department of Health to administer a statewide, comprehensive, newborn hearing screening and follow-up program. Pennsylvania Department of Health preliminary data indicates that, for calendar year 2011 births, 300 newborns were identified with some type of hearing loss. Since the beginning of the newborn hearing screening in 1999, over one million Pennsylvania newborns have been screened for hearing loss, and 2,248 have been identified with a hearing loss and timely linked to early intervention and/or medical services.

NOTE: This information represents preliminary data. Final 2011 newborn hearing screening data will be available in January 2013.

94 percent of parents whose infant or toddler received early intervention services **agreed that someone talked to them about how information** about their child's performance is used to help teach their child new things.



2011-2012 State ICC Council Members

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**Pennsylvania Department
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Secretary

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Gary D. Alexander
Secretary



Resources

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
www.dpw.state.pa.us

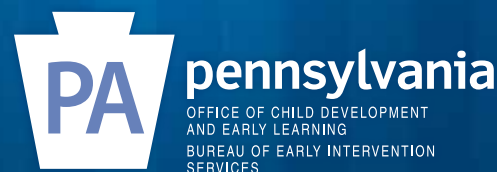
Pennsylvania Department of Education
www.education.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Department of Health
www.health.state.pa.us

**Pennsylvania Training and Technical
Assistance Network**
www.pattan.net

Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania
www.parenttoparent.org

CONNECT Information Service
800-692-7288, V/TTY



Pennsylvania State Interagency Coordinating Council

Early Intervention in Pennsylvania

Dear Governor Corbett,

As Chair of the Pennsylvania SICC, I speak to and meet with families across the state who are receiving early intervention services; and, I hear their personal stories. The common theme of the feedback I receive is that early intervention provides priceless hope and optimism when families are facing fear, anxiety, and uncertainty for the future. Early intervention is a bright light that provides a positive return for every member of the community.

Early intervention focuses on a child's *abilities* and provides a well-lit path for a lifetime of inclusion and success. As you remember, my beautiful daughter, Chloe, who has Down syndrome, received a strong early intervention foundation and is planting countless positive seeds in her community and school. Her picture was on the big screen in Times Square this past year and she appeared in a national TV series showing that all children are invaluable blessings.

I have made it my priority to meet with policymakers along with Chloe to share the positive news about Pennsylvania Early Intervention. Chloe was very excited when she met with you this fall season and you graciously agreed to have your photo taken with her (below). When I asked her why she liked Governor Corbett she replied, "Tom is my friend." Thank you, Governor Corbett, for being a friend and champion for Pennsylvania's most valuable, precious resource – children.

Sincerely,

Kurt A. Kondrich, M.Ed.

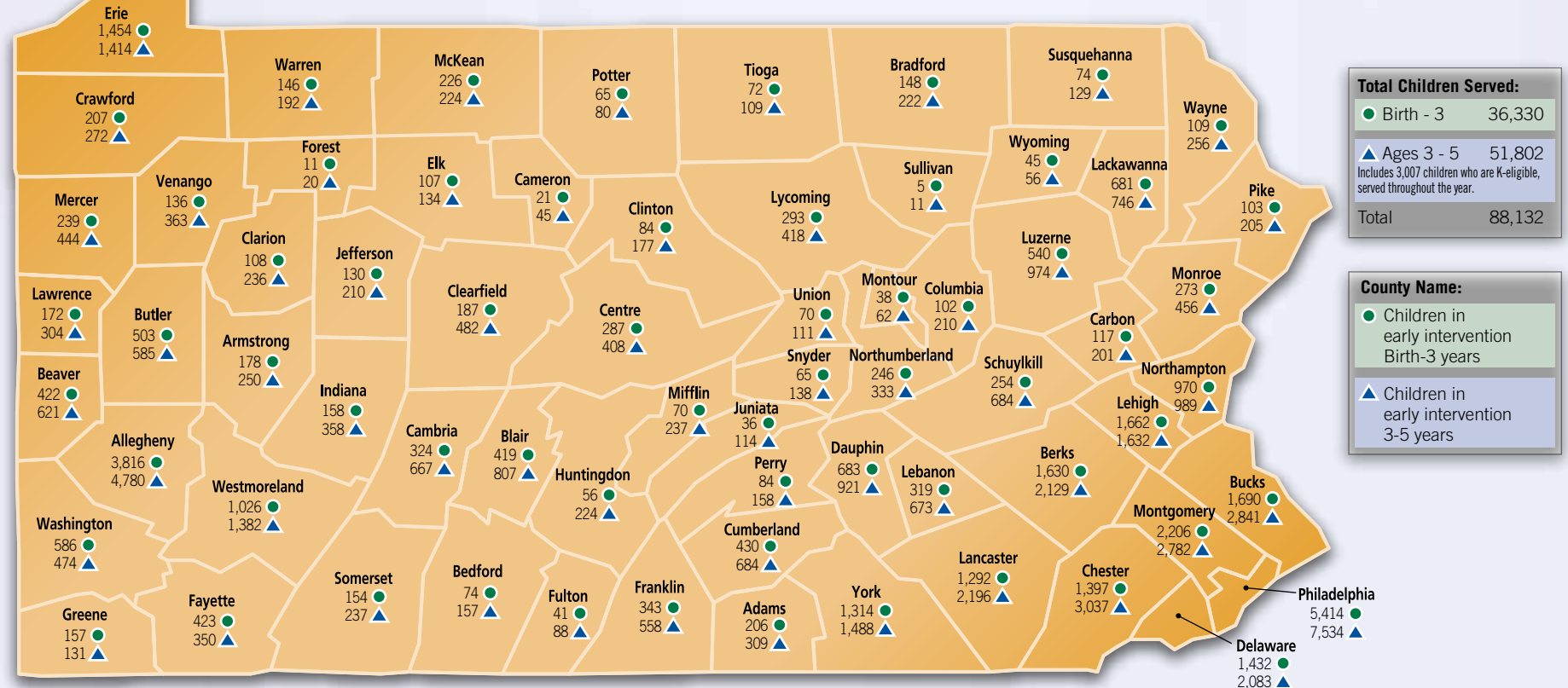
Parent and State ICC Chair, 2011-2012

The SICC is a Governor-appointed council that advises and assists the Departments of Health, Education and Public Welfare to ensure that a comprehensive delivery system of integrated early intervention programs and services is available in Pennsylvania to all eligible infants, toddlers and young children and their families. The SICC vision for early intervention 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. The SICC supports the concept of inclusion for all children.

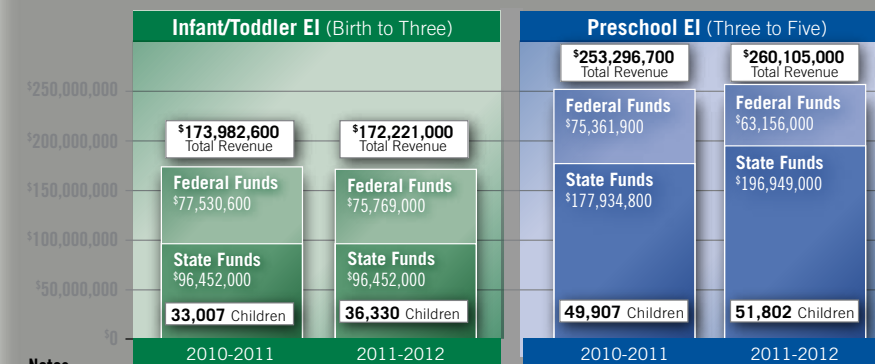
93 percent of parents whose infant or toddler received early intervention services **agreed that they were given choices** regarding their family's services and supports.



Children Served by County



Funding for Services



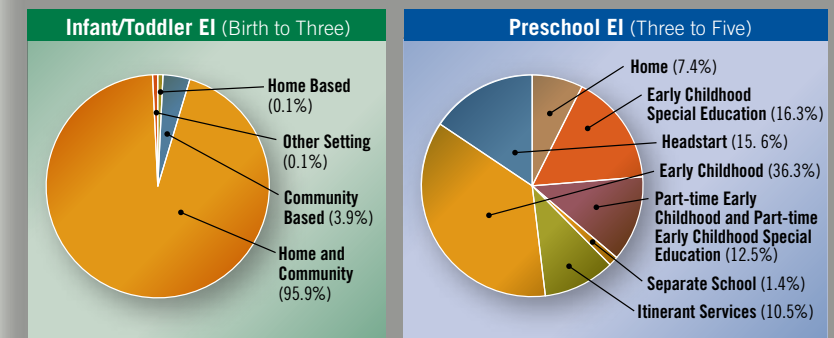
Notes:

1. State funds for 0-3 include funding for services and service coordination. State funds for 0-3 do not include the 10% match in funds from each county.
2. Federal funds include IDEA and Medical Assistance funds.
3. 2011-2012 numbers indicate allocated funds. Final expenditure numbers will not be available until January 2013.

93 percent of parents whose infant or toddler received early intervention services **agreed that they were given ideas** for how to support their child's development at home.



Location Where Services are Provided



Note:

Home and community means services are provided both in the home and in community settings, such as child care or recreational sites.

Note:

Almost 70 percent of preschool children receive their services in inclusive settings.

95 percent of parents whose infant or toddler received early intervention services **agreed that they had the opportunity to tell service providers** which supports and services are important to their child and family.

