

LEGISLATIVE COALITION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
 CHILDREN’S HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE  
 FACT SHEET

**DRAFT**

NEED	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Baby Watch Early Intervention</b>  <b>\$2,280,571</b></p>	<p>Early intervention assists young children with developmental delays and disabilities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• attain basic skills</li> <li>• provides training to families to address their child’s special needs</li> <li>• And ultimately reduces the number of children requiring special education services.</li> </ul> <p>These services are provided through the coordinated effort of parents, community agencies, and a variety of professionals.</p> <p>Population growth and required outreach efforts have seen a 10% increase in the number of infants and toddlers receiving Early Intervention Services.</p> <p>Early Intervention services help families help their children and themselves. Families receive services and information to make informed decisions regarding their children’s short and long term goals.</p> <p>Due to limited funding to the program over that past several years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• many families do not get access to the Early Intervention services due to tightening eligibility</li> <li>• some services have had to be cut or reduced</li> <li>• some programs have vital staffing shortages</li> <li>• and some programs in the rural areas may have to stop providing services and close their program</li> </ul>

<p><b>Utah Birth Defect Network</b> <b>\$360,000</b></p>	<p>Preventing birth defects is a crucial and necessary step to improving children’s health and survival and reducing overall health care costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth defect prevention requires a combination of: surveillance, to track and assess these conditions; research, to find their causes; and direct prevention services to ensure that all women and their providers know of effective primary prevention available, such as preconception folic acid to prevent neural tube defects.</li> <li>• It is also important that families have the resources to help them in the difficult times following the tragic loss of their child with birth defects.</li> <li>• Because the causes of most birth defects are still unknown, birth defect research must continue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1,000 babies are born with a birth defect in Utah each year. (UBDN data)</li> <li>○ The cost of birth defects is at least \$8 billion dollars each year. (Waitzman)</li> <li>○ Utah's estimated lifetime cost for 12 selected birth defects was about \$74 million dollars. (Harris and Levy, 1997)</li> <li>○ Lifetime costs range from \$140,000 to \$700,000 per individual's lifetime depending on the particular birth defect. (Waitzman)</li> <li>○ The average cost for a hospital stay for congenital anomalies is \$40,777. <a href="http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/birthdefects/about.shtm">http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/birthdefects/about.shtm</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Both genetic and environmental factors can cause birth defects.</i></p>
<p><b>Medicaid</b></p>	<p>Preserve Medicaid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is one of the most important programs for families with children who have special needs.</li> <li>• Medicaid affords families to get vital health related services that would not otherwise be available to them</li> <li>• Alleviates extreme physical and emotional pain and suffering as well as huge financial burdens</li> </ul>

<b>Family Opportunity Act (FOA)</b>	Passed as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, the Family Opportunity Act amends Title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow states to offer middle-income families of children with disabilities the option of buying into Medicaid. These children are often uninsured or underinsured because employer-provided insurance is not available, is too expensive, or offers very limited benefits. Parents are frequently forced to remain in dead-end jobs to keep any health insurance or forced to turn down jobs and impoverish their families so they can qualify for federal health benefits. Parents are also forced to put their children in institutions if they can't get needed supports and services in the community. FOA would help families stay together. The FOA opens the door for states to establish Medicaid buy-in programs for children with disabilities if their family income is less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.
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