



Virginia Department of  
Behavioral Health &  
Developmental Services

# Part C of IDEA Early Intervention Services

## Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia

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# Federal Law

**1986:** Congress enacted early intervention (EI) legislation as an amendment to the Education of Handicapped Children's Act (1975) to ensure that all children with disabilities from birth through age two would receive appropriate EI services, forming Part H of the Act.

**1991:** The Act was re-authorized and renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

**1998:** IDEA was re-authorized and Part H became Part C of the Act.

**2004:** Re-authorized



# Virginia State Law



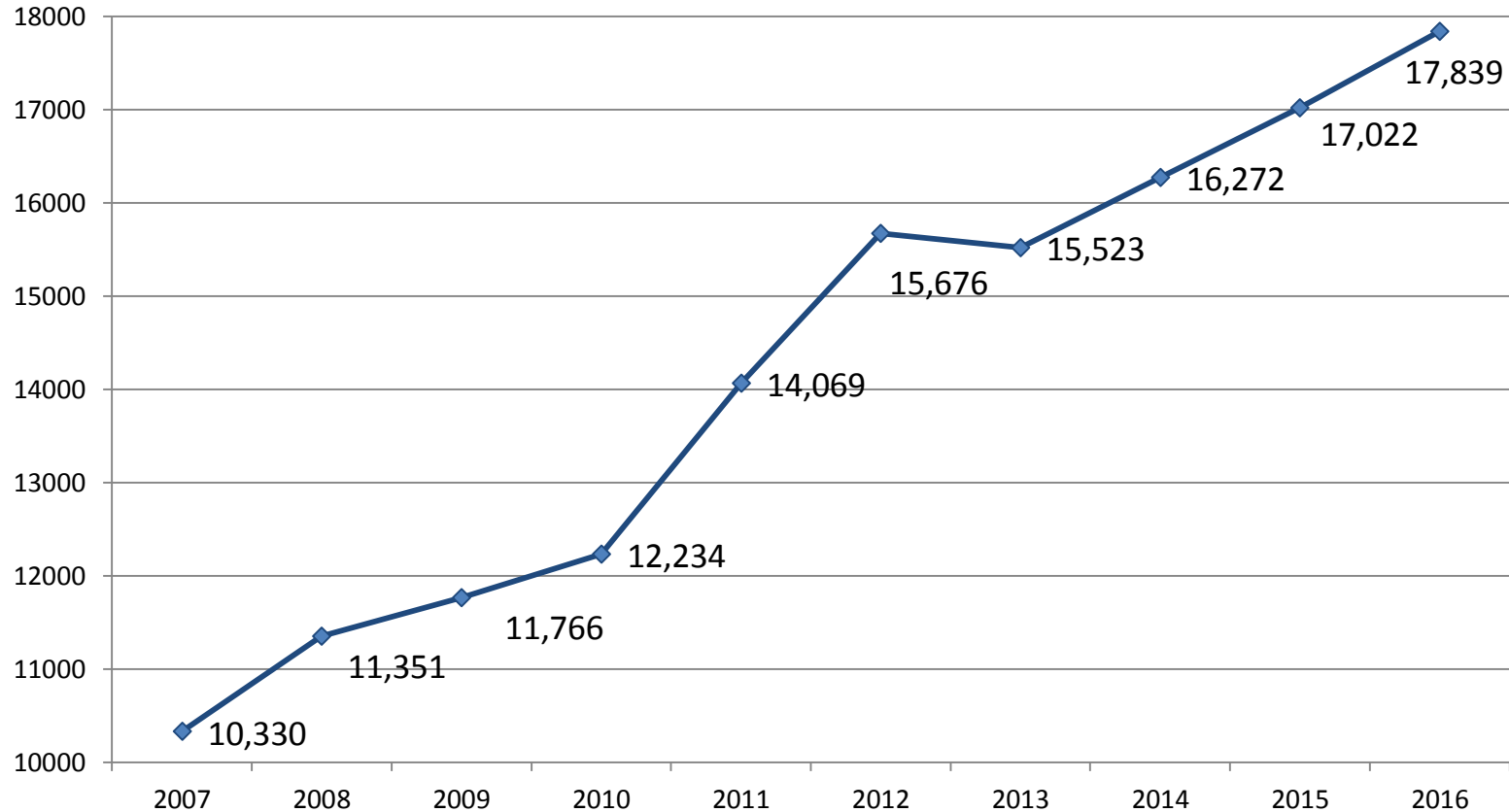
Since **1987**, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) has served as the State Lead Agency in Virginia for Part C Early Intervention Services.

Virginia's Part C System is called the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia (ITCVA)

**There are 40 Local Lead Agencies**, including 30 CSBs and 10 other entities (local government, universities).

The local systems are called the **Infant & Toddler Connection of \_\_\_\_\_**

# Numbers Served Annually in Virginia



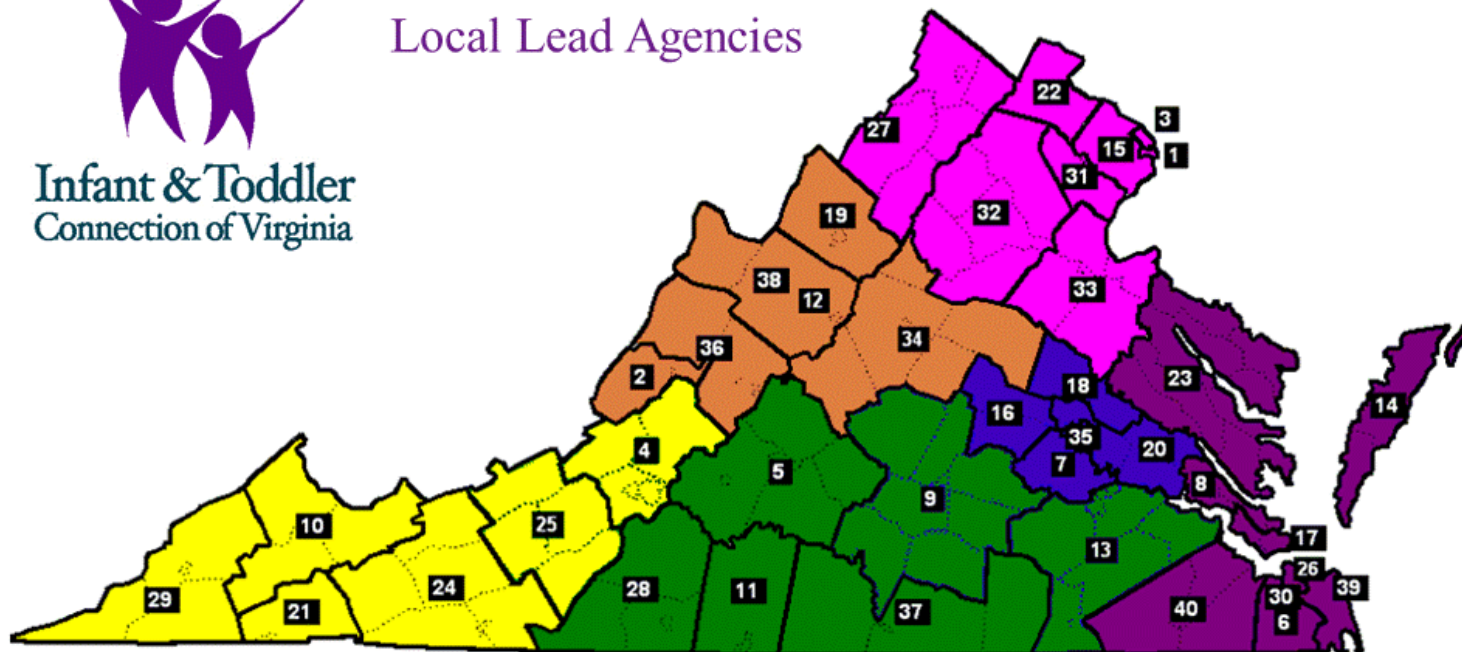
- 26% increase from FY 2011 to FY 2016
- 72% increase from FY 2007 to FY 2016

# 40 Local ITC Systems Organized by Regions



Infant & Toddler  
Connection of Virginia

## Local Lead Agencies



## Infant & Toddler Connection of

- |  |                                  |                            |   |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Alexandria                                   | 11 Danville-Pittsylvania         | 21 the Highlands           | 31 Prince William, Manassas and Manassas Park |
| 2 the Alleghany Highlands                      | 12 Staunton-Waynesboro           | 22 Loudoun                 | 32 Rappahannock-Rapidan                       |
| 3 Arlington                                    | 13 Crater District               | 23 Middle Peninsula-N Neck | 33 Rappahannock Area                          |
| 4 the Roanoke Valley                           | 14 the Eastern Shore             | 24 Mount Rogers            | 34 the Blue Ridge                             |
| 5 Central Virginia                             | 15 Fairfax-Falls Church          | 25 the New River Valley    | 35 Richmond                                   |
| 6 Chesapeake                                   | 16 Goochland-Powhatan            | 26 Norfolk                 | 36 the Rockbridge Area                        |
| 7 Chesterfield                                 | 17 Hampton-Newport News          | 27 Shenandoah Valley       | 37 Southside                                  |
| 8 Williamsburg * James City * York * Poquouson | 18 Hanover                       | 28 the Piedmont            | 38 Augusta-Highland                           |
| 9 the Heartland                                | 19 Harrisonburg-Rockingham       | 29 DILENOWISCO             | 39 Virginia Beach                             |
| 10 Cumberland Mountain                         | 20 Henrico-Charles City-New Kent | 30 Portsmouth              | 40 Western Tidewater                          |



# Local Infant & Toddler Connection Systems

Each of the 40 local ITCs, led by a local system manager (LSM) is responsible for:

- Ensuring that EI services listed on the Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP) for eligible children are provided according to federal and state regulations, including employing and/or contracting with certified EI service providers;
- System and fiscal management, data collection, public awareness, child find, training and local lead agency administration; etc.

**Connect with your Local System Managers (LSM).**

<http://211uwgrp.org/>



# Who is eligible?

In Virginia, children from birth to age three are eligible for Part C early intervention services if:

- They are functioning 25% or more below their chronological age or adjusted age in one or more areas of development (i.e., cognitive, physical, communication, social-emotional, or adaptive development);
- They show atypical development (e.g., behavioral disorders, affective disorders, abnormal sensory-motor responses); and/or
- They have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay. Autism is one of the conditions in this category.

# Part C Early Intervention Services May Include:

- Assistive technology
- Audiology
- Developmental Services
- Family training, counseling and home visits
- Health services
- Medical services (for diagnostic and evaluation purposes only)



- Nursing Services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Social work services
- Speech-language pathology
- Transportation
- Vision services



# Natural Environments, Routines, Coaching & Functional Outcomes

## Some Key Principles:



- Early intervention services are to be provided in natural environments to the maximum extent appropriate.
- Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar contexts (routines).
- All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's learning and development (coaching).
- The primary role of the service provider in EI is to work with and support family members and caregivers in children's lives (coaching).
- IFSP outcomes (goals) must be functional and based on children's and families' needs and family-identified priorities (functional outcomes).

# Funding Part C

## Early Intervention Services

- Federal Part C funds are allocated to local system lead agencies and are available as payor of last resort.
- Some EI services are provided at no cost to families, including:
  - a multidisciplinary evaluation and assessment;
  - the development of an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP); and
  - service coordination.
- Charges are assessed to families for the Part C EI supports and services they receive through the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia (except those listed above).
- Many private insurance plans pay for some early intervention services.
- Medicaid covers all Part C early intervention services.
- A sliding fee scale is available to families.
- No child and family will be denied services due to an inability to pay.

# Early Intervention Works

- Early intervention (EI) services reduce costs for education (special education, grade retention), crime, welfare
- Early social interventions reported a \$7 return on \$1 investment
  - Sources: Rand research brief, the Brookings Institution Research briefs, Perry Preschool Project, Harvard University

# Helping Toddlers Suspected of Being on the Spectrum

- Age of Diagnosis of ASD often occurs after age 3
- Limited research on using Applied Behavioral Analysis under age 3
- There is some support for parent mediated intervention
- Provided and billed as developmental services in Early Intervention

# Who can make a referral?

**Anyone can make a referral.**



Any child who is suspected of being eligible can be referred to Virginia's Part C system. Anyone can make a referral, including parents and/or family members, social workers, physicians and others with whom the child and family have contact.

\*Referral sources do not need parental permission to refer, but Part C does need parental permission to share information with anyone (FERPA=Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act).

**Central Point of Entry**

<http://211uwgrp.org>