

Early Childhood Intervention Program Overview

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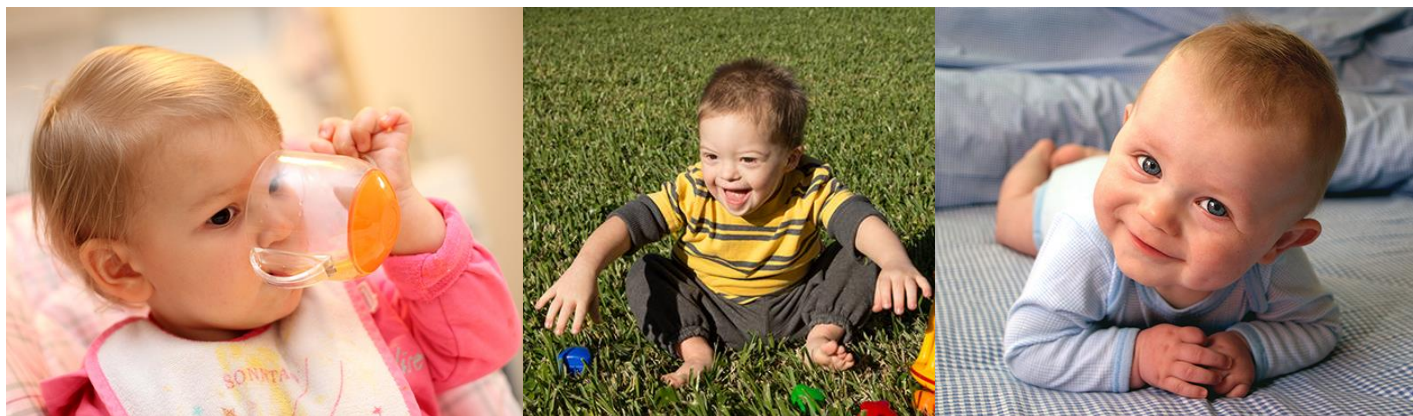


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Goal of the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program

ECI provides supports and services to families with children under age 3 who have developmental delays or disabilities. Assistance is provided regardless of insurance status.

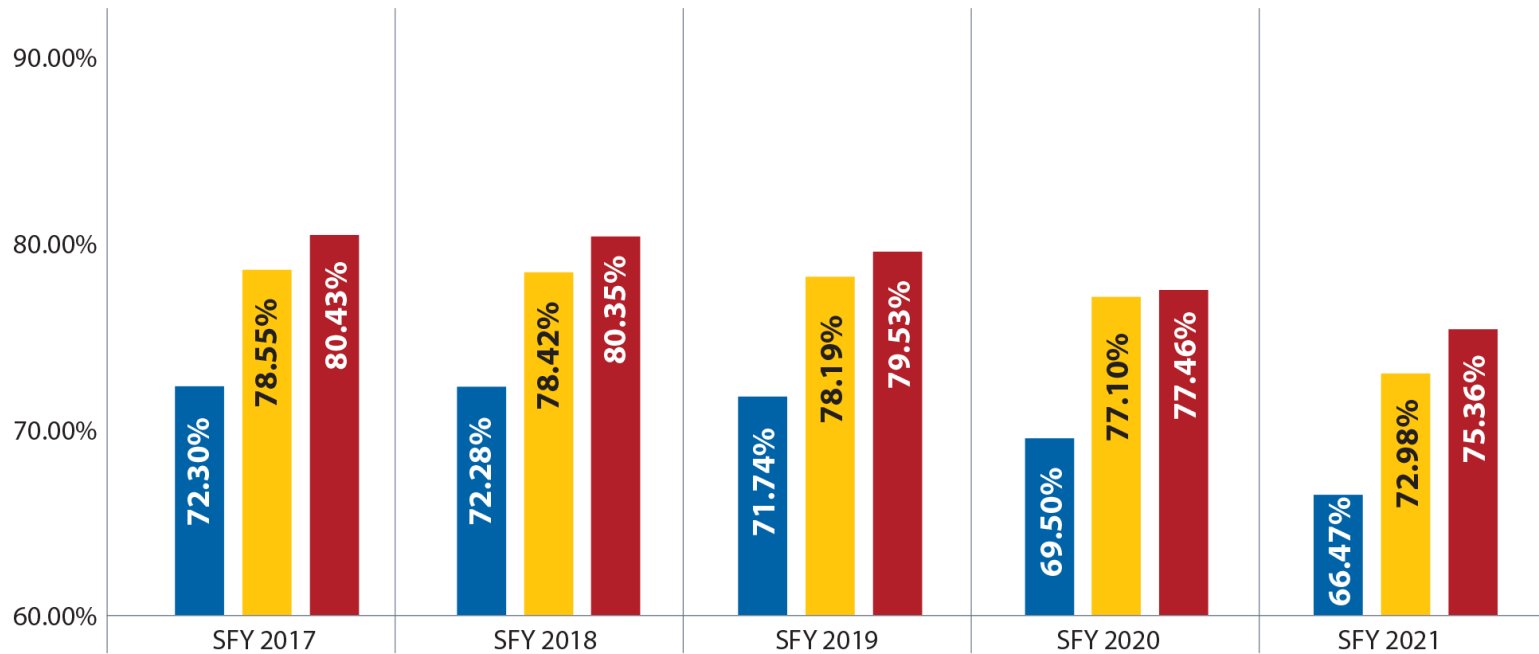
- ECI aims to positively impact children's success in school and beyond.
- Research shows the program saves taxpayer dollars by avoiding additional social services and educational costs later in life.



Child Outcomes

Children in Texas consistently experience significant growth as a result of ECI participation.

100.00%



Positive social-emotional skills includes getting along with other children and the way they relate to adults.

Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills includes reasoning, problem solving, and early literacy and math skills.

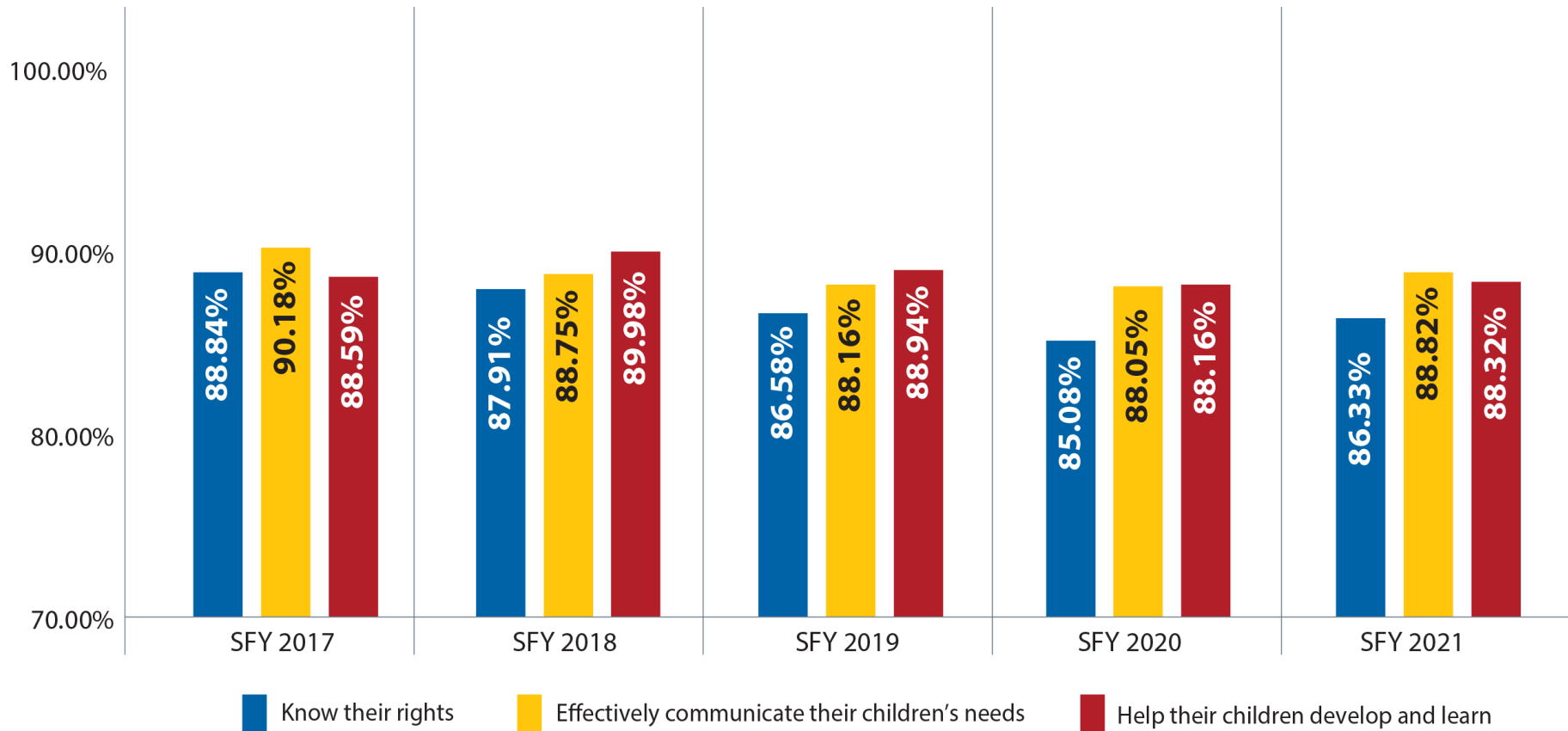
Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs includes feeding, dressing, self-care and following rules related to health and safety.



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Family Outcomes

Families in Texas consistently report positive outcomes as a result of ECI participation.





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ECI Saves Taxpayer Dollars

Research shows the program saves taxpayer dollars by avoiding additional social services and educational costs later in life.

- Because of early intervention services, 46% of children with a developmental delay did not need special education by the time they reached kindergarten.
- Programs that intervene early have returns on investment from \$2.50 to \$17.07 for every dollar spent.
- Katy ISD estimates the ECI services have saved the district over \$1 million annually in special education costs.

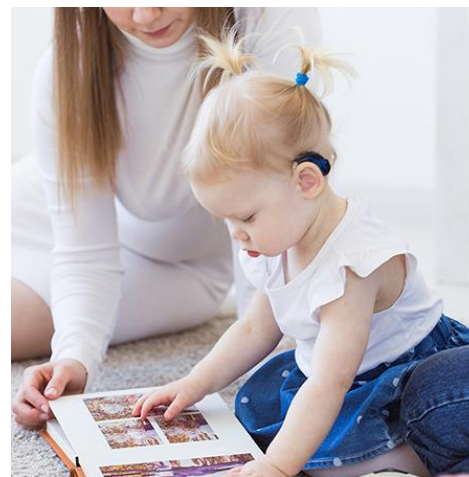


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Who is Served?

To be eligible, a child must be under three years of age, reside in Texas, and:

- have a developmental delay of at least 25% in one or more areas of development,
- have a medically diagnosed condition, or
- be deaf/hard of hearing or blind/visually impaired.





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Service Delivery

HHSC contracts for services with local agencies and organizations through cost-reimbursement contracts.

- ECI contractors include:
 - community health centers
 - private non-profit agencies
 - independent school districts
 - education service centers
- ECI service providers include:
 - early intervention specialists
 - physical therapists
 - occupational therapists
 - speech therapists
 - dieticians
 - service coordinators
 - behavior analysts



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Services Provided

Federal regulations require a comprehensive array of services:

- Assistive technology
- Audiology
- Family training, counseling, and home visits
- Health services
- Language services
- Medical services
- Nursing services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Social work services
- Specialized skills training
- Speech therapy
- Transportation
- Vision services

Specialized skills training (SST) is a unique and defining service of ECI.



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Transition Services

ECI provides transition services to help with support for the child after age three.

- After ECI, children may participate in child care, private therapy, head start, community recreation, neighborhood play groups, head start, or school district Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities (PPCD).
- In fiscal year 2021, 12,915 children served by ECI were determined to be potentially eligible for Part B services.



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ECI Appropriations for the 2022-2023 Biennium

Texas accesses more funding sources to support its ECI program than all but one other state.

Strategy	General Revenue	All Funds	FTEs	Notes
D.1.3, Early Childhood Intervention Services	\$95,429,558	\$339,021,572	0.0	-Foundation School Funds are reflected as IAC in HHSC's bill pattern
D.1.4, Ensure ECI Respite Services & Quality ECI Services	\$1,900,000	\$7,672,911	37.9	
TOTAL	\$97,329,558	\$346,694,483	37.9	

Notes

- FTE authority is the same in each fiscal year of the 2022-23 biennium.



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Contractor Third-Party Collections

ECI contracts are structured to incentivize local collections. More than half of program costs are collected outside of ECI contracts.

- Contractors must bill all other eligible funding sources before billing to their ECI contract.

Funding Fiscal Year 2021

\$109,061,073

Locally Collected Funds*

\$106,170,695

ECI Contract Funding Expended



*includes Medicaid MCOs, TMHP, MAC, private insurance, family out-of-pocket, CHIP, TRICARE, donations, grants, in-kind



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IDEA Part C Requirements

The federal agency administering the IDEA Part C funding is the Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

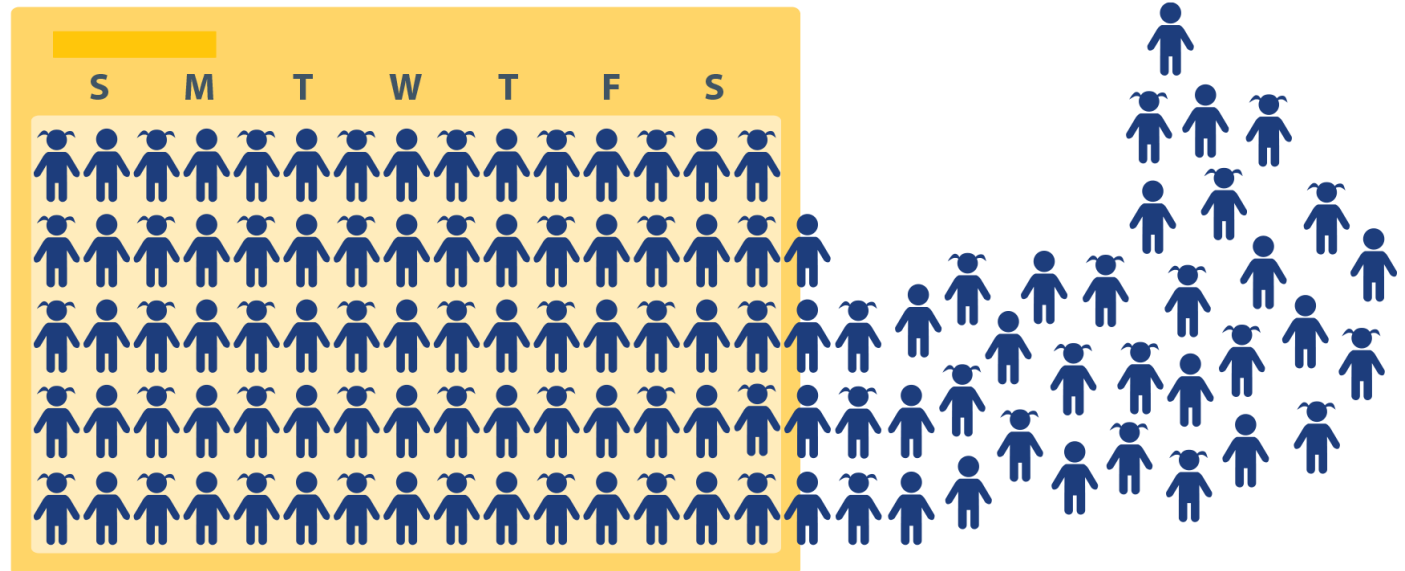
- Federal regulations require:
 - statewide services,
 - services in natural environments (homes and other community settings), and
 - regardless of funding, providers must serve all children determined eligible.
- **Federal regulations require the ECI program to largely function as an entitlement program. IDEA Part C funding for the program is capped and has remained relatively level for multiple years despite increased population and caseload growth.**



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Every Eligible Child Must Be Served...

**With contractors absorbing any
additional costs**

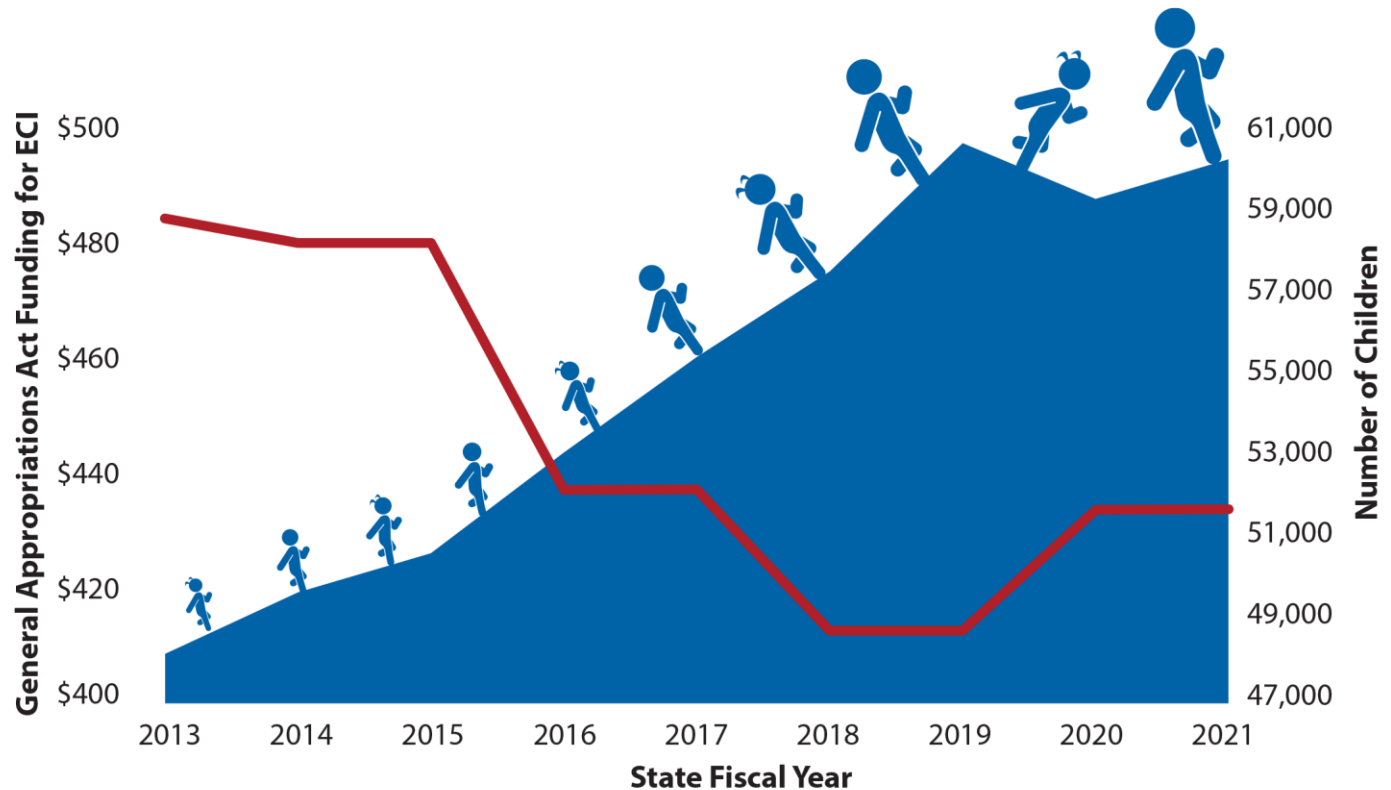




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Clients Served vs. Available Appropriations

Demand for ECI services continues to grow, resulting in decreased funding per child.



■ Average Monthly Funding Per Child from General Appropriations Act ■ Number of Children Served

ECI saw a 2% reduction in the number of children served in State Fiscal Year 2020 due to COVID-19.



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Questions?

