

Help Us Ensure Virginia's Infants & Toddlers are Receiving the Early Intervention Services They Need

Background

- The number of infants and toddlers served in Virginia has increased 36% from State Fiscal Year (SFY) 07 to SYF-11
- Virginia's Federal and State allocations have not changed to reflect the increased number of children that are being found eligible for early intervention services.
- Systems are at risk of having waiting lists for services and are out of Federal Compliance, jeopardizing Federal funding.
- Virginia's Early Intervention system has at least an \$8 million deficit for FY13. This deficit will continue increase as the number of children needing services continues to grow.

When Your Child & Family are Receiving Early Intervention Services, You Have Rights & SafeGuards

- If your child has been referred to your local early intervention program your child has the right to receive an evaluation to determine if they are eligible and a right to the development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) within *forty-five (45) calendar days* from when you contacted the local system.
- Your child has a right to *receive the services on your IFSP*.
- Your child has the right to receive each early intervention service in *natural environments* to the extent appropriate to meet your child's developmental needs.

To view a complete copy of your rights and safeguards, or to sign up for "Action Alerts" to stay informed, visit The Arc of Virginia's website at www.thearcofva.org.

If Your Rights are Being Violated

Contact your local system manager and The Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia with a written complaint.

A written complaint includes:

- Your name and contact information
- Where your child receives or should receive early intervention services (locality)
- How your family's rights are being violated

Send this information to:

The Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
Office of Early Intervention
P.O. Box 1797, Richmond, VA 23218
(804) 786-3710

More Funding is Needed: What You Can Do to Help

Contact the Governor and ask him to support Virginia's Infant and Toddler Connection.

You can e-mail the governor: <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/AboutTheGovernor/contactGovernor.cfm> or call his office at (804) 786-2211.



If you have questions about your rights, or you need assistance with writing a complaint, or to learn more about how to help, contact Debra Holloway, Director of Training & Technical Assistance, The Arc of Virginia, at (804) 649-8481 ext. 103 or dholloway@thearcofva.org.