Early Intervention

for Infants & Toddlers with Developmental Delays & Disabilities

January 2023

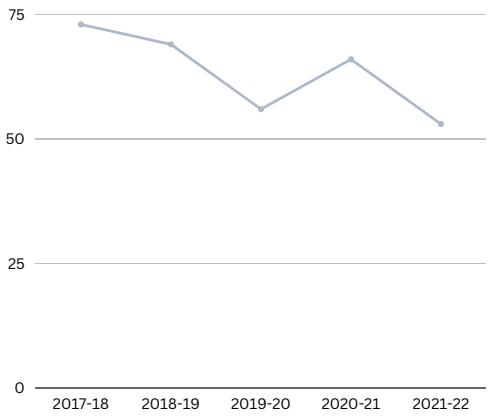
The Need

Young children across New York are not receiving timely and comprehensive early childhood developmental services. There is a shortage of providers because they have been underfunded for many years.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires services be delivered in a timely manner according to a plan created by developmental experts and family. **New York has fallen behind on delivering on rights guaranteed in federal law.**

27% decline in children who received timely services since 2017. **New York families have waited far too long for the state to fulfill its responsibility.**

Percentage of NY Children Receiving Early Intervention on Time



Black and Hispanic children in New York are less likely to be referred at a young age and have services initiated within the legally required 30 days. **All children must have access to the services they need, without exception.**

Reimbursement rates for providers are lower now than 20 years ago. This discourages provider recruitment and retention, **leaving families and children waiting for -- or being denied -- life changing interventions.**

"My son spent 8 months waiting for speech therapy. It was a lot of frustration and tears."

-- Dally, mom to two year old Gideon

TheChildren'sAgenda
Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

KIDS CAN'T WAIT

Rochester, NY
www.childrensagenda.org
Contact: Brigit Hurley at bhurley@thechildrensagenda.org

Effective and Equitable Services

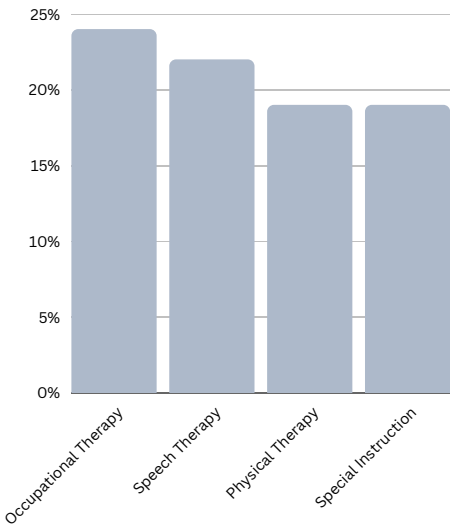
The Kids Can't Wait coalition is concerned about children who need in-person services being limited to remote, telehealth delivery because no provider is available to travel to them.

In-person vs. telehealth should be based on the **most effective method of service, the needs of the child, and parent preference** -- not provider availability.

We are especially concerned about the inequities of one- and two-year old children in **low-income, communities of color being offered services only over a screen** while their peers receive the benefit of in-person therapies.

New York has a legal obligation to ensure children who need in-person services have access to them, and **professionals who deliver face-to-face services should be compensated for the extra costs they incur**, including transportation and travel time.

Services Delayed Because No In-Person Provider Available and Family Declined Telehealth



The Solution

- **Increase Early Intervention reimbursement rates by 11% across the board to ensure providers are there when children need them.**
- **Institute higher rates or rate add-ons to cover the higher costs of in-person service delivery to ensure all children who need in-person services have access to them.**
- **The Covered Lives legislation provided $28 million in new revenue from private health insurers to the Early Intervention system and should be used to increase reimbursement rates.**

"Early Intervention literally saved my child's life. He is now 9 and thriving. He walks, talks (nearly non-stop), attends school full time and has a great sense of humor. "

-- Brittney, mom to Caulder

For data sources, go to online fact sheet at thechildrensagenda.org/the-agenda/earlychildhood/kids-cant-wait/

TheChildren'sAgenda
Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

KIDS CAN'T WAIT

Rochester, NY
www.childrensagenda.org
Contact: Brigit Hurley at bhurley@thechildrensagenda.org