



Talking Points: Adequate Funding for Early Intervention

- Alabama’s pediatricians cannot overemphasize the critical need for services in Alabama for very young children with developmental delays. More and more, pediatricians are using standardized screening tools with young children so that problems can be identified early and children can enter school successfully. It’s important to remember that a child’s brain develops in the first three years of life.
- Alabama’s Early Intervention System (AEIS) is a key partner for pediatricians across the state, providing services to infants and toddlers from birth to age 3 with disabilities and developmental delays and their families. Created to be a critical first step to ensuring that all children enter school equipped to learn, AEIS is instrumental in ensuring a lifetime of success and provides services through a statewide network of local programs.
- Alabama’s young children, especially those living in poverty, are greatly affected by social determinants of their health and well-being, and adverse childhood experiences, sadly, are on the rise. More children are being identified and referred to AEIS for services, yet funding for this critical program has remained flat. The program can no longer serve the current number of eligible children in Alabama without additional funding.
- This year, AEIS needs an additional \$1.66 million to meet the needs of 349 additional children young children.
- Early investment in our children is smart for Alabama! According to the Rand Corporation, each dollar spent on “well-designed” early intervention programs generates a return to society of up to \$17.