



early steps

Children's Medical Services

Early Steps

Early Steps offers early intervention services for families with infants and toddlers (birth to 36 months) who have developmental delays or an established condition likely to result in a developmental delay. Services are individualized and based on a child's needs and a family's concerns, resources, and goals. Early Steps is administered by Children's Medical Services in accordance with Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C.

Early Steps has a number of unique features including:

- Bringing services into the child's life rather than fitting the child into services.
- Maximizing each child's everyday natural learning opportunities.
- Enhancing each child's development and participation in community life.
- Providing each child with a consistent team for evaluation and services.
- Giving families options in service decisions and encourages active partnerships.
- Providing a primary service provider to work with your family and the team.

Early Steps and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Over \$23 million in non-recurring funds were made available to Early Steps on July 1, 2009. These funds must be obligated by September 31, 2011. Early Steps staff in Central Office worked with a team of local Early Steps representatives to determine how to best spend the ARRA money within the guidelines. This project team generated four main goals and seven categories of spending:

The goals are:

- Maximize short term investment with lasting results for kids
- Minimize unsustainable ongoing commitments
- Drive long-term program improvements and capacity
- Provides a primary service provider to work with your family and the team

The seven categories of spending are:

- 1) Direct Services
- 2) Technology
- 3) Providers
- 4) Local Early Steps Grants
- 5) Training Development and Delivery
- 6) Public Awareness
- 7) Third Party Reimbursement Analysis

