



**STRONG START**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM**  
**Office of the State Superintendent of Education**  
**Division of Specialized Education**



**Program Description**

**Target**

Children under three years of age who are experiencing developmental delays in one or more of the following areas: cognitive development; physical development; language and speech development; psychosocial development; and self-help skills.

**Purpose**

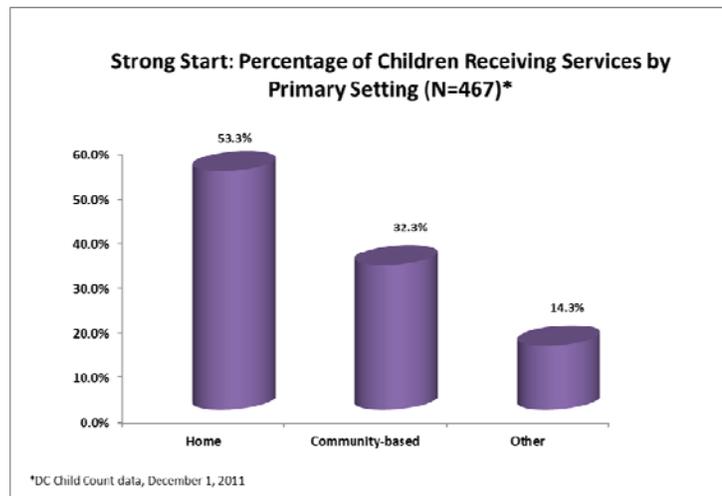
To support families in promoting their child's optimal development and to facilitate the child's participation in family and community activities.

**Services**

Early Intervention services include, but are not limited to: developmental evaluations and assessments, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language therapy, developmental therapy, service coordination, psychological services and social work services.

**Delivery Method**

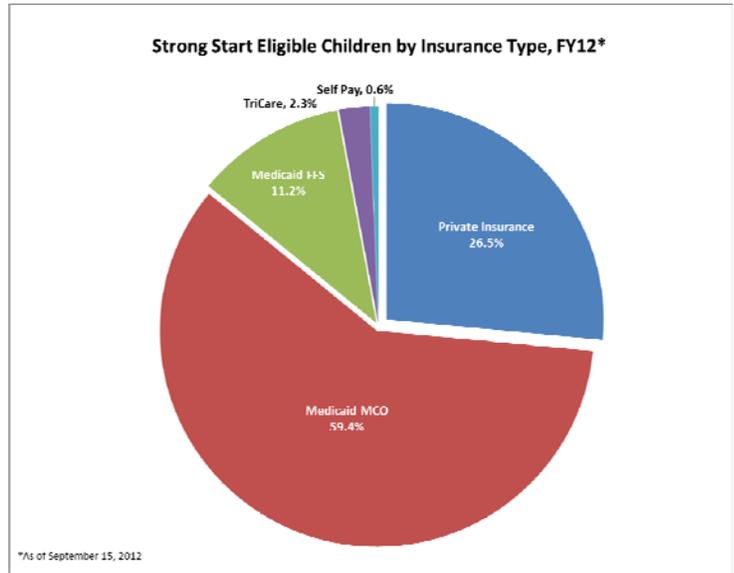
DC EIP arrange for evaluations and assessments for children under age three. Families whose children are eligible receive an Individualized Family Service Plan, which describes the services and supports that are needed for the child to achieve his/her goals. Services are required to be provided in the natural environment, or a location that is natural or typical for a same aged infant or toddler without a disability.



Early Intervention services are paid for with a combination of government and family resources. The evaluation, assessment, development of a service plan, and service coordination are provided to families at no cost. Ongoing early intervention services are paid for by the family's health insurance, when appropriate, Medicaid, and program funds. Families contribute to the cost of services by paying a portion of the service cost based on a sliding scale.

## Program Effectiveness

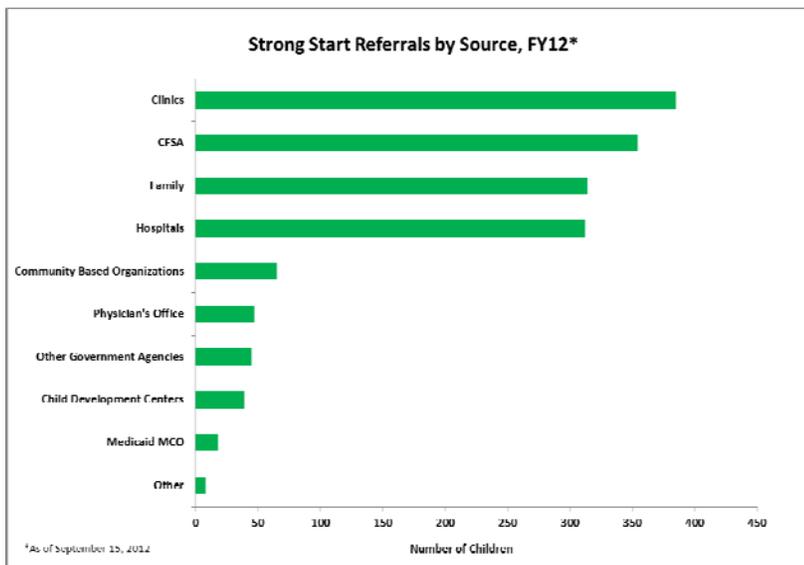
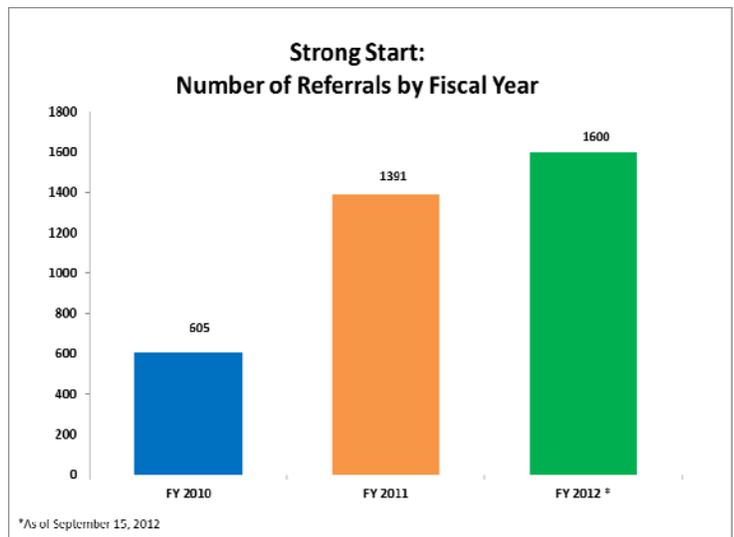
- Increased number of children served by 30% in 2 years
- Established interagency partnerships via MOAs with DHCF, CFSA, Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and Early Head Start
- Developed new database to ensure accurate tracking of children and services
- Improved its standing with the US Department of Education for the first time in the history of the program.



## Program Data

### Funding

- Average monthly cost per child = \$1320.00
- DC EIP receives a 2 million annual federal grant
- In FY12 DC EIP received 1.2 million in local funds for the first time in the Program's history
- 70% of children enrolled in DC EIP are Medicaid eligible



### Child Find

- Since starting the Strong Start Campaign in FY 2011, DC EIP has doubled the number of referrals to the program
- Clinics, CFSA, families, and hospitals comprise the majority of referrals to DC EIP

## Demographics

- ❑ More than half of the children referred to Strong Start are African American
- ❑ 1 in 5 children referred to Strong Start is Hispanic/Latino
- ❑ Over 1/3 of all Strong Start referrals are from Wards 7 and 8

