



# Help Me Grow<sup>®</sup>

## NATIONAL NETWORK

# CALIFORNIA



### PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

California currently has 11 county-level affiliates with a potential reach of close to 1,060,000 children ages 0-5. This year, three counties were added to the list of affiliates, and another 19 counties are in the planning stages. With the expected addition of Los Angeles later this year, *Help Me Grow* is rapidly becoming a recognized part of the early intervention conversation at the state level.

### OUR HMG SYSTEM

In California, key early intervention systems are run at the county level, and critical early childhood systems-building responsibility and funding are housed in the 58 county-level First 5 California (First 5 CA) Commissions. Because of this unique structure, *Help Me Grow* (HMG) California is structured as a network of county affiliates.

Counties join *HMG* California after participating in a statewide Learning Community that provides technical assistance. Participating counties build on local resources and pathways through engagement of key stakeholder groups including early childhood, mental health, special education, early intervention, and health. After participation in the Learning Community, interested counties complete an application for affiliation that outlines their plan for implementation of the *HMG* core components.

Our 11 county affiliates are implementing *HMG* through a range of lead organizations including: *Help Me Grow* Orange County; county First 5 Commissions in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, and Santa Clara; Children's Nurturing Project (Solano); Exceptional Parents Unlimited (Fresno), Landon Pediatric Foundation (Ventura); Support for Families of Children (San Francisco) and Yolo Family Services Agency (Yolo). First 5 provides core funding in each of these counties, with additional funding coming from a range of public and private sources.

As the lead for *HMG* CA at the state level, the First 5 Association plays a key role in policy and advocacy work to advance *Help Me Grow*, as well as early intervention systems improvements. Working with other early childhood advocates and all the First 5 commissions, the Association has developed an early intervention policy agenda focused on expanding access to developmental screenings, coordination across critical state agencies, and the improvement of data collection at both the state and county level.

## FAST FACTS

AFFILIATE SINCE

2011

ORGANIZING ENTITY / LEAD AGENCY

First 5 Association of California  
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FUNDING SOURCES

*HMG* California is housed at the First 5 Association of California, with funding from First 5 California and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, in addition to core funding from the First 5 commissions. Critical to California's investments in early childhood was the 1998 approval by voters of Proposition 10, which provided ongoing funds for early childhood efforts for children ages birth to five, through the First 5 CA and 58 county commissions. Additional funding resources differ in each county but may include participation and support from Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP), Medi-Cal (Medicaid) Administrative Activities, Federal Financial Participation, Mental Health Services Act, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF/ CalWORKS).

ADVANCING

Developmental Promotion, Early Detection & Linkage to Services