

The *Help Me Grow* System

Frequently Asked Questions

What is *Help Me Grow* (HMG)?

HMG is an efficient and effective system — with a proven track record — that assists states in identifying at-risk children, then helping families find community-based programs and services.

Why is *Help Me Grow* important?

Children with developmental problems are too often eluding early detection. Quality programs exist to help them, but we need to remove barriers that keep families from connecting with the resources they need.

Help Me Grow tackles the kind of system changes necessary to successfully identify children at risk for behavioral and developmental problems and to link them to existing services.

How does *Help Me Grow* work?

Help Me Grow is a system that builds collaboration across sectors, including child health care, early care and education, and family support.

Through comprehensive physician and community outreach and centralized information and referral centers, families are linked with needed programs and services. Ongoing data collection helps identify gaps in and barriers to the system.

How many states are affiliates of the *Help Me Grow* system?

As of 2015, 23 states are *HMG* affiliates: Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming.

How does a state become an affiliate?

States interested in affiliation can contact the National Center (860-837-6232) for an introductory conversation, and information on options for becoming a member of the *Help Me Grow* National Network.

What is the *Help Me Grow* National Center?

HMG National supports the building of *HMG* systems throughout the country. *HMG* National provides ongoing data analysis, webinars, inter-state meetings and forums for affiliates. *HMG* National's goal is to have a *Help Me Grow* system operating in all fifty states.

How much latitude is built into the plan for innovation?

The *Help Me Grow* system requires fidelity to four core components:

1. child health care provider outreach
2. community outreach
3. a central telephone access point
4. data collection and analysis

In addition to these core components, the system requires:

1. an organizing entity
2. a plan for statewide expansion
3. a plan for continuous quality improvement

Beyond these basic requirements, we are finding a tremendous amount of innovation and customization among participating states. *HMG* National tracks these innovations to inform data and policy.