



News from *Help Me Grow* National

National Center News

National Releases Directory of Expertise

As we move into our next phase of expansion, the [Help Me Grow Directory of Expertise](#) will be a critical tool for all affiliates. Areas of expertise listed include Aligning *HMG* & Strengthening Families; Business Planning; Call/Contact Center; Financial Management; and many others. Our hope is that the combined experience and wisdom of our strong national network can help all states build resilient and effective *HMG* systems to help all at-risk children. To be listed in this directory or to update your information in it, fill out the form on the last page and email it to Erin Kalla at Ekalla@connecticutchildrens.org

Recording of Medicaid Conference Call Available

On Monday, September 9, Charles Bruner of the Child & Family Policy Center led a conference call on the potential opportunities for Medicaid to pay for care coordination. The National Center has now made the recording of that call available. [Click here to listen.](#)

“Lifelines for Poor Children”: James Heckman Op-Ed in New York Times

On September 14, Nobel Prize-winning economist [James Heckman published an Op-Ed](#) in the New York Times on the importance of investing in effective early childhood development from birth to age 5. “Our choice in these difficult economic times is not just whether to spend or cut, but whether to choose knowledge over conventional wisdom,” he writes. “Will we put money in programs that pay off?”

8 HMG States to Participate in Multi Million Enhanced Assessment Grants

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded \$15.1 million to three state education agencies to develop or enhance their Kindergarten Entry Assessment. Two of the three, North Carolina and Maryland, are part of consortiums of states receiving grants on behalf of the lead state’s application. *Help Me Grow* states in the consortiums are Delaware, Iowa, Oregon Rhode

Island, Washington, DC, South Carolina, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Michigan. Learn more about the [EAG program](#).

[BUILD Initiative Launches New Blog](#)

BUILD, which helps state leaders develop early childhood systems tailored to the needs of the state's unique young child population, has launched a new blog featuring leading-edge early childhood thinkers on issues affecting our community. Visit [BUILding Strong Foundations](#) for provocative opinions such as the evolution of quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) by national early childhood expert Sherri Killins.

[California Develops Comprehensive Early Learning Plan](#)

California's State Advisory Council released the [California Comprehensive Early Learning Plan \(CCELP\)](#) late last month. The plan identifies how California can develop a high-quality birth-to-age-five system that provides all children with the knowledge and skills they need to achieve long-term success. Several stakeholders from across the state, including parents, early childhood professionals, state and local agency representatives, higher education faculty, and Zero to Three Western Office staff, provided input during the development phase. The recommendations contained in the CCELP were also informed by a meta-analysis of existing early childhood services that was conducted last year.

[ReadyNation Releases Research Brief on Early Childhood Investment](#)

"[The Vital Link: Early Childhood Investment is the First Step to High School Graduation](#)" powerfully illustrates the correlation between access to early education and future educational success. The document also includes new research from several early childhood programs that clearly demonstrate their success in improving educational outcomes.

[Pediatric Dental Coverage and the Affordable Care Act in California](#)

[The Children's Partnership](#) has successfully advocated for pediatric dental coverage through the state's health exchange. This turn of events could help children across the country if other states follow California's lead to ensure choice and more affordable pediatric dental coverage. [Learn more here](#).

[New Early Childhood State Policy Profiles](#)

The National Center for Children in Poverty is pleased to announce the release of our latest [Early Childhood State Policy Profiles](#), a comprehensive view of state policies in the areas of health, early care and education, and parenting and economic supports, that affect the health and well-being of young children in low-income families.

[AMCHP Releases New ACA Fact Sheets](#)

AMCHP has released two fact sheets to help state leaders and others assist women, children, and families with the requirements and benefits of the Affordable Care Act. [Outreach and Enrollment](#) provides state maternal and child health (MCH) leaders with informational resources and suggested steps to support outreach and enrollment and help ensure improved access to care for MCH populations. "[Who Will be Covered for What in 2014?](#)" supports leaders in educating women, children, including those with special health care needs, and families about

projected eligibility levels for various health insurance coverage options as well as eligibility for minimum health plan benefit levels. State MCH programs also can use this to anticipate where there may be potential continued gaps in health insurance coverage and benefits for MCH populations.

[Celebrating 10 Years of Improving Pediatric Primary Care in Connecticut](#)

Ten years ago, Child Health and Development Institute of CT developed [EPIC: Educating Practices in the Community](#) in partnership with Connecticut Chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. The goal was to improve children's health by promoting pediatric practice change. EPIC began with a training on developmental screening. EPIC now offers 14 free one-hour training topics focused on promoting children's healthy development and improving the delivery of care. Trainings are held over lunch or another convenient time in the comfort of the provider's office. EPIC has successfully helped more than 200 pediatric practices across Connecticut better meet the needs of children. [Learn more here.](#)

[HMG Alameda County Releases Manual on ECE](#)

First 5 Alameda County has released a [new, free manual](#) designed for use by managers of quality coaching initiatives for Early Care & Education sites. From assessment to orientation, implementation to evaluation, this comprehensive manual provides step-by-step support to help develop and conduct effective ECE coaching initiatives.

[News Article: Early Childhood Education Is a Winner for Policymakers](#)

A September article from U.S. News & World Report outlined the ways that early childhood education is a powerful issue for policymakers to address. "With polls showing that a majority of people, of all political parties, support investing in early childhood education, there's no question this issue is a winner for policymakers," writes journalist Nina Rees, president and Chief Executive Officer of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. [Read the article.](#)

[Video: Building Adult Capabilities to Improve Child Outcomes](#)

This [5-minute video](#) depicts a theory of change from the [Frontiers of Innovation](#) community for achieving breakthrough outcomes for vulnerable children and families. It describes the need to focus on building the capabilities of caregivers and strengthening the communities that together form the environment of relationships essential to children's lifelong learning, health, and behavior.