



### *National Center News*

#### **[New Post from Dr. Dworkin's Help Me Grow Blog](#)**

##### **[Reframing the Mental Health Issue](#)**

Children's mental health is a systematically neglected issue in our country. Yet *Help Me Grow* offers states of all shapes and colors a non-partisan way to reframe and address the issue. "Our experience with *Help Me Grow* dissemination also suggests the value of reframing the discussion beyond the essential need for proper treatment," he writes. "We believe that the answer lies, in part, in getting 'upstream' of these issues by focusing on **early detection of young children for whom behavioral concerns have not yet evolved into full-blown mental health diagnoses.**" [Read more.](#)

##### **[Help Me Grow National Forum: April 2-4, Miami, Florida](#)**

The fifth annual National Forum is right around the corner. Our theme this year is "Expanding, Innovating, Sustaining," and we are thrilled to bring together HMG affiliates leaders from **23** HMG states. If you haven't registered already, please do so by Friday, March 7, 2014. All registered participants will receive an email from HMG National confirming your registration, along with a detailed schedule of events and locations. We look forward to a great networking experience! [Register here.](#)

##### **[Regional Call Reminder](#)**

The next round of quarterly regional calls will take place in March.

Eastern Region: Wednesday, March 19 @ 2:30 pm

Southeast Region: Tuesday, Thursday, March 6 @ 10:00 am (EST); 9:00 am (CST)

Central Region: Tuesday, March 11 @ 11:00 am (EST); 10:00 am (CST)

Western Region: Thursday, March 13 @ 2:30 pm (EST); 11:30 am (PST)

Please call or write to us at the National Center with any questions.

### **Welcome Help Me Grow California-San Francisco!**

On behalf of the National Center, we welcome *HMG* San Francisco to the *Help Me Grow* National Network! This initiative is being developed through [Support for Families](#) with the goal of linking all services for children ages birth to five in San Francisco at risk for developmental delays. We are delighted to learn of San Francisco's affiliate status in California and look forward to working with you to bring *Help Me Grow* to the children and families of San Francisco.

### **Help Me Grow Western New York Receives Implementation Grant**

The [Health Foundation for Western and Central New York](#) recently approved just over \$450,000 to support implementation of *HMG* WNY for the next 15 months. In 2013, with support from Niagara University and local businessman Jeffrey Dann, *HMG* WNY deeply explored the rationale for launching *HMG* as a viable and needed strategy to improve the lives of young children and families in Western New York. *HMG* WNY will now begin a soft in which use of the call center, development of the data infrastructure, and professional/QI development will be phased in over the coming year. "We are very committed to helping *HMG* WNY reach its full potential and setting the stage for spreading across NY," says Amber Slichta, Vice President of HFWCNY. A hearty congratulations to *Help Me Grow* Western New York!

### **Help Me Grow South Carolina Included in MIEC Home Visiting Expansion Grant**

The Health Resources and Services Administration has awarded South Carolina-MIEC Home Visiting a \$14.4 million grant to expand home visiting services and early childhood system initiatives. *Help Me Grow* South Carolina is embedded in the grant. The substantial funding will support *HMG* SC's expansion to Charleston and two surrounding counties over the next three years. In the words of Program Manager Jane Witowski, "We are on a roll!"

### **Help Me Grow Washington Makes Social Media Splash**

*HMG* Washington has recently published a wonderful series of blog posts on encouraging healthy child development. With targeted advice for parents of [newborns](#), [one-year-olds](#), [two-year-olds](#), [three-year-olds](#), and [four-year-olds](#), the posts are warm, informative, and supportive. WithinReach, the parent organization for *HMG* Washington, also hosts a comprehensive [Pinterest](#) page on all things child development and runs a lively [Twitter account](#). Kudos to the *HMG* Washington system for such robust social media work.

### **Help Me Grow Orange County Annual Fundraiser**

After last year's successful event, *HMG* OC is set to hold their 2nd annual fundraising event "The Art of Helping" Children's Art Auction. This auction will feature art created by Orange County children and other local artists. Guests will have a chance to bid on art and silent auction items. All proceeds from this event will directly support *Help Me Grow* Orange County. The event will be held on March 12, 2014. We hope it is a smashing success! [Read more](#).

### **Great Start Wayne Parent Coalition & Help Me Grow Michigan**

*Help Me Grow* Michigan is a partnership of the Great Start Collaboratives of Wayne, Macomb and Oakland Counties. Wayne County is also host to the Great Start Wayne Parent Coalition, a group of Wayne County parents and guardians of children pre-birth to twelve years of age. They are dedicated to improving the responsiveness and performance of programs and services that are to support the needs of all children pre-birth through age eight and their families. This group recognizes parent involvement as the key to children's success in school and in life, and meets monthly. [Learn more.](#)

### **Zero to Three's Babies on the Omnibus**

On January 17, President Obama signed the fiscal year 2014 (FY 2014) Omnibus Appropriations bill into law. The bill provides an important signal by prioritizing the early development and learning of young children during a time of tight budgets. Check out the ZERO TO THREE Policy Center's analysis of the spending bill from the perspective of supporting all aspects needed for positive, healthy development of infants and toddlers: good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences. Read [Babies on the Omnibus: Analysis of the Fiscal Year 2014 Spending Bill](#) now.

### **HRSA Healthy Start Program Funding Opportunities**

Three funding opportunities under HRSA's Healthy Start Program have been reopened through Monday, March 31, 2014. All eligible organizations are encouraged to apply. Organizations that applied for the previous Healthy Start funding opportunities that closed in January 2014 may also apply. In particular, HRSA seeks organizations that: serve eligible communities in need of Healthy Start services based on perinatal indicators; demonstrate a track record and capacity for successfully performing Healthy Start activities; and are poised to engage in Healthy Start activities upon the potential receipt of funds in September. [Learn more.](#)

### **First Annual Report from Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation**

This report introduces the Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation-Strong Start (MIHOPE-Strong Start). The study is designed to assess the impacts of evidence-based home visiting programs for disadvantaged expectant mothers. [Read more.](#)

### **Latest "Early Learning Left Out" Report on Investments in Young Children**

The latest edition of [Early Learning Left Out](#) (ELLO), produced by the [BUILD Initiative](#), analyzes the most recent available federal, state, and school district budget information to determine how much is invested today in young children and whether that is sufficient to meet the 1989 First National Education Goal that "all children start school ready to learn."

"The data make abundantly clear that America is falling short," writes BUILD. "ELLO shows that for every dollar the country invests in the education and development of each school-aged child, only seven cents is invested in the education and development of each infant and toddler and twenty-five cents in each pre-schooler." [Read more.](#)

### **[New Recommendations from the RWJF Commission to Invest in Young Children](#)**

In 2008, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) convened the Commission to Build a Healthier America to help find better ways to improve the health of our nation. Recently, RWJF asked the Commissioners to come together again. This year, the Commission tackled immensely complex matters that underlie profound differences in the health of Americans, including experiences in early childhood. They found that to improve the health of all Americans we must invest in the foundations of lifelong physical and mental well-being in our youngest children. The full report details the core investments that must be made to support young children. [Read more.](#)

### **[Culturally Competent Services: Resource Brief](#)**

This brief lists major resources for information on cultural and linguistic competence and sources of non-English-language health education materials. [Read more.](#)