



## News from *Help Me Grow* National

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### **[HMG National Releases New Policy Brief on Protective Factors](#)**

The *Help Me Grow* National Center has released a new policy brief, [Help Me Grow Promotes Optimal Child Development by Enhancing Protective Factors](#), that highlights the proven positive relationship between the *HMG* system and the five protective factors specified by the Strengthening Families Framework. "Overall, study findings indicate that support from *Help Me Grow* and subsequent linkage to programs and services enhance protective factors and perhaps even mitigate risk factors," the brief notes. "Even among families with differing needs and risks, all responded similarly and positively." [Download the brief here](#).

### **[Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Opportunity](#)**

ECCS: Building Health Through Integration is now soliciting grants for fiscal year 2013. All applicants are required to partner with an early childhood state team to include, as appropriate, representatives from programs, projects and professional organizations. *Help Me Grow* is listed in the grant notice as an example of an appropriate partner. *HMG* National will provide a guidance document as a resource for those of you interested in exploring this opportunity. The application deadline is April 26, 2013. [Click here to learn more about the grant](#).

### **[HMG Alabama Blog at www.HelpMeGrowNational.org](#)**

Since September 2012, *Help Me Grow* Alabama has published a lively, engaging blog that shares news, events, partners, accomplishments, and media coverage. It also discusses relevant research and topics of interest. The National Center website links to the website [here](#).

### **[HMG National Visits Florida](#)**

Dr. Paul Dworkin, Dr. Peter Gorski of The Children's Trust, and Dr. Jeff Brosco of the University of Miami School of Medicine kicked off a successful and engaging site visit on Tuesday, February

12, 2013, in Tallahassee. They first met with the state *Help Me Grow* leadership team, which includes high-level officials from state agencies, partner organizations, and advocacy representatives. [Click here to read more about the visit.](#)

### **[HMG Iowa Launches Social Media Campaign](#)**

During March 2013, the Iowa chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is conducting a month-long *Help Me Grow* Social Media Campaign. The mission of this initiative is to highlight and promote screening and surveillance resources for Iowa parents and pediatricians with the intention of connecting Iowa families to appropriate local, state, and national resources. [Click here to learn more about this marketing initiative.](#)

### **[New Brief on Early Childhood Mental Health](#)**

As the [HMG Alabama blog](#) reports, Harvard University's [Center on the Developing Child](#) produces research supporting the protection of all children's early life experiences. The newest publication in their [InBrief series](#) explains why many costly problems for society, ranging from the failure to complete high school to incarceration to homelessness, could be dramatically reduced if attention were paid to improving children's environments of relationships and experiences early in life. [Click here to download the brief.](#)