

The *Help Me Grow* National Network

A National Problem

Nationwide, 12 to 16 percent of American children are estimated to experience developmental, behavioral and/or emotional delays or problems. However, even when needs are identified, connecting children to services often proves difficult and demands knowledge of programs, understanding and meeting of eligibility requirements, and persistence in overcoming barriers.

The *Help Me Grow* Response

The *Help Me Grow* system begins with **comprehensive physician and community outreach** — including child health care, early care and education, and family support providers — to strengthen skills in developmental surveillance and screening and enhance the early detection of children at risk for adverse developmental and behavioral outcomes.

The centerpiece of the system is a **centralized information and referral center** that links children and their families with helpful community-based programs across service sectors. Ongoing **data collection** helps identify gaps in and barriers to the system, as well as supports quality improvement activities.



If you are a parent, a resource center, or a Head Start, the *Help Me Grow* system makes sense. That's what makes people so excited — everybody can be part of *Help Me Grow*.

— Patsy Hampton
Program Manager, *Help Me Grow* California

How does *Help Me Grow* help communities meet the needs of children and their families?

- **Not supplanting but connecting better.** *Help Me Grow* builds on existing resources across the sectors of healthcare, early care and education and family services
- **Communities work more efficiently** and effectively by creating and/or combining existing centralized access points into a single portal of entry to programs and services
- ***Help Me Grow* assists pediatricians** in their care coordination efforts
- **A linkage mechanism**, using skilled telephone care coordination, connects families to supports and provides feedback to medical homes
- **Community networking efforts** expand local service providers' knowledge of community resources
- **The *Help Me Grow* data system** provides feedback on community needs and gaps to inform advocacy and strategic planning

Help Me Grow System Core Components and Structural Requirements

Core Components

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Child health care provider outreach to support early detection and intervention	Community outreach to promote use of <i>HMG</i> and provide networking events for families and service providers	Centralized telephone access point to connect children and their families to services and care coordination	Data collection to understand all aspects of the <i>HMG</i> system, including gaps in and barriers to service

Structural Requirements

- Organizing entity
- Strategy for statewide expansion
- Implementation of a Continuous Quality Improvement process



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How does *Help Me Grow* maximize state and federal connections?

EARLY HEAD START — Orange County, CA, UT

- *Help Me Grow* Utah provides outreach for Early Head Start.

HOME VISITING — CA, CO, CT, DE, IA, KY, MA, NJ, OR, UT, WA, WV

- *Help Me Grow* Connecticut is using MIECHV funds to support their central access point (Child Development Infoline/United Way 211).

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS — AL, CA, CO, CT, DE, IA, KY, MA, NJ, NY, OR, SC, UT, WA

- *Help Me Grow* Delaware and *Help Me Grow* Kentucky are using ECCS funds to support the *Help Me Grow* Manager position.

RACE TO THE TOP-EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE — CA, CO, DE, MA, NJ, VT, WA

- The Vermont Office of Early Childhood is using Early Learning Challenge funds to support *Help Me Grow* Vermont

PROJECT LAUNCH — CA, CO, CT, IA, KY, MA, NY, OR, WA

- The *Help Me Grow* California Director was also the Project LAUNCH manager. Nine California counties are now affiliates of the statewide system.

LEARN THE SIGNS. ACT EARLY — AL, CA, CT, IA, KY, MA, SC, UT

- The *Help Me Grow* South Carolina state director was also the LSAE Champion. All families who call in or are referred to *Help Me Grow* receive a Milestone Moments booklet with *Help Me Grow* SC information on the back.

The *Help Me Grow* National Center

The *Help Me Grow* National Center, based at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center's Office for Community Child Health, is supporting the replication of the system throughout the nation. Lessons learned from affiliate states are shared in the interest of enhancing system diffusion and continuously improving efficiencies and outcomes. The National Center also conducts research to demonstrate the cost benefits of and evidence base for *Help Me Grow*.

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Alabama	Kentucky	South Carolina
California	Louisiana	Utah
Colorado	Massachusetts	Vermont
Connecticut	Michigan	Washington
Delaware	Minnesota	West Virginia
District of Columbia	New Jersey	Western New York
Florida	Oregon	Wyoming
Iowa	Puerto Rico	



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