

# First 5 San Joaquin Special Needs Services

## Fact Sheet

### Why is Early Intervention for Developmental Delay Important?

Special needs refer to disabilities, delays, or behavioral, developmental, and/or health conditions that require specialized supports, monitoring and/or services. With early detection of developmental or behavioral delays (as well as early intervention and treatment), increased inclusion, improved academic outcomes, and cost savings to schools are possible. However, numerous barriers make it difficult to connect young children to needed services, and those who do not receive support are at risk of not being ready for school.

### What Does First 5 San Joaquin Do?

To strengthen the system for the early detection and intervention of special needs, First 5 San Joaquin follows the *Help Me Grow* National model and invests in **outreach** to community members, families, child care providers, and child health providers; developmental, vision, and hearing **screenings** to identify if a child may have a special need or developmental delay; call center **information and referral** services; and connection to **intervention** services. In addition, First 5 San Joaquin participates in projects like the 5Cs San Joaquin

County aimed at increasing service coordination and collaboration for children with special health care needs.

### How are Children with Developmental Concerns Being Served?

In San Joaquin County, the *Help Me Grow* call center offers a central access point to connect families to screenings and services. Families may enter the *Help Me Grow* system by calling the call center directly, or as a result of referrals (e.g., from the Human Services Agency CalWORKs program, child care providers, county agencies, and medical providers). Once contact has been made, call center staff link children to appropriate treatment, community services, or assessment.



### SCREENINGS AND REFERRALS

In Fiscal Year 2013-14,

**2,544** children ages 0-5 received an ASQ screening and **173** children received an ASQ referral.



### REASON FOR REFERRALS\*

Dev. Assessment	52%
Education	17%
Speech	8%
Child Care	7%
Family Support	3%
Behavioral Service	1%
Health Insurance	1%
Health/Dev. Subspecialist	1%
Other	10%



### CONNECTION TO SERVICES\*

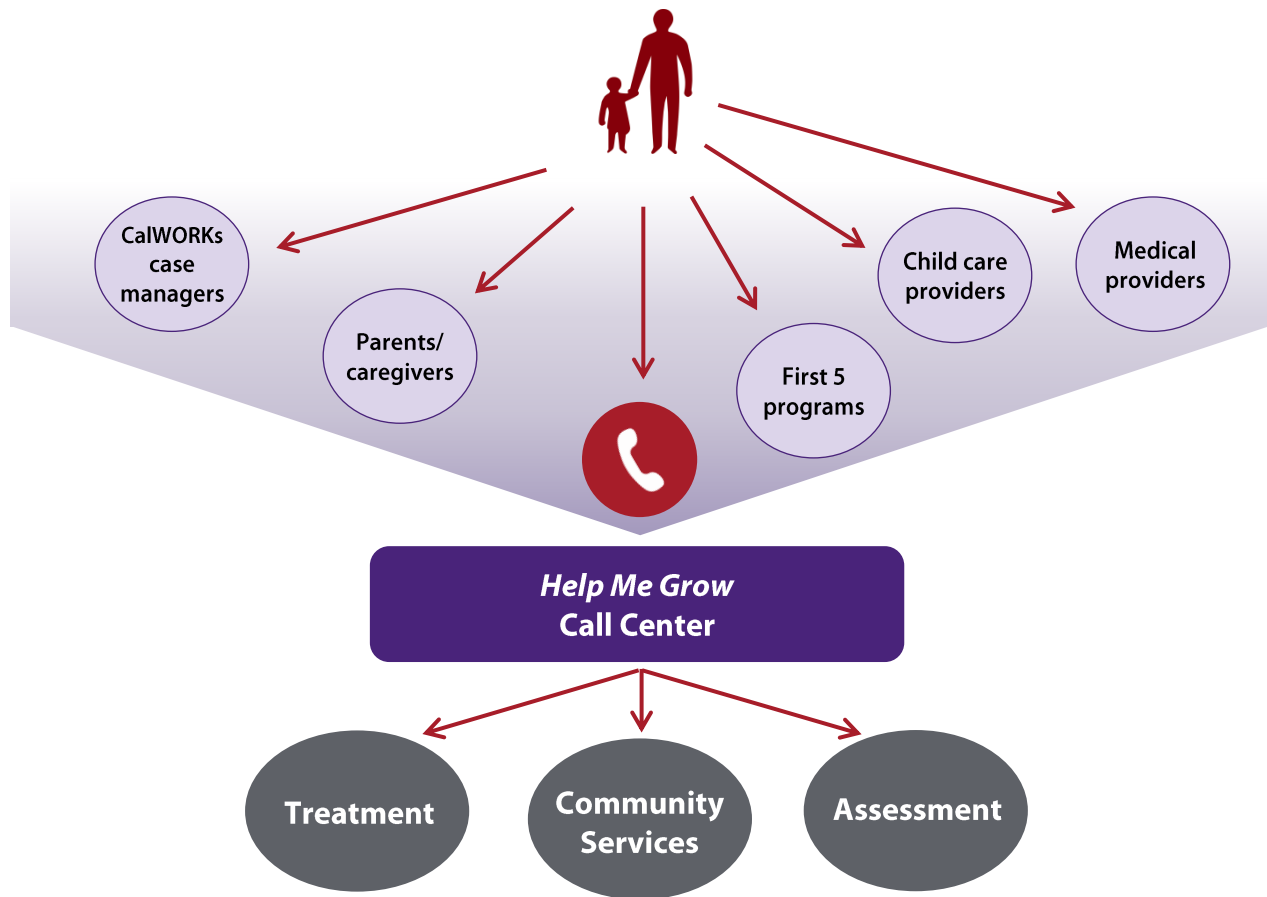
**84 percent** of children (112 children) were connected to at least one of their referred services.

\* Source: *Help Me Grow* Database (July 2014 – December 2014)



## Overview of *Help Me Grow* in San Joaquin County

Families access the *Help Me Grow* call center either directly or through referrals.



The *Help Me Grow* Call Center links families to needed services.

## Are Systems Improving in San Joaquin County?

As noted below, interviews with key leaders revealed a range of strengths and accomplishments, as well as challenges and areas for improvement, within the system of care for young children in the county.

### Strengths and Accomplishments

- Outcomes are improving for children and families.
- Families receive help navigating a complicated system.
- Services are available where gaps existed before.
- County-wide collaboration is an asset.

### Challenges and Areas for Improvement

- The complexity of the system is a barrier to service utilization.
- Awareness of available services could be strengthened.
- There is a need to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services.
- Better coordination with medical providers would benefit families.
- There is a shortage of professionals and specialists for referrals.