



## **Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact Collaboration Improvement Innovation Network (ECCS Impact CoIIN):**

### **ECCS Impact Purpose, Process and Aim:**

The ECCS Impact grant builds upon NJ's existing progress in the development of an integrated, comprehensive early childhood system of care for families from pregnancy to age eight. An early childhood comprehensive system is defined as an organized, purposeful partnership of interrelated and interdependent agencies/organizations representing health, mental health, social services, families and caregivers, and early childhood education to develop seamless systems of care for children from birth to kindergarten entry. These systems help children grow up healthy and ready to learn by addressing their physical, emotional and social health in a broad-based and coordinated way. NJ actively participates using the ECCS Impact Collaborative Innovation and Improvement Network (CoIIN) approach. The ECCS Impact program helps to enhance NJ's comprehensive, coordinated preventive health system and demonstrate improved outcomes in population-based indicators that reflect children's developmental health and family well-being. ECCS Impact continues to build and enhance state and local partnerships within EC systems that connect at-risk children/families to supportive services.

**Population to Be Served:** Parents/families with young children, birth to age five, residing in five NJ communities—Camden (Promise Zone), Cumberland, Essex (Project LAUNCH community), Middlesex and Passaic where risks to children are high for poverty, health disparities, cultural barriers, poor maternal-child health outcomes, and infant/child developmental delays, child neglect/abuse and low educational attainment.

**Project Goals:** 1) Five local communities were selected to participate in the ECCS Impact CoIIN over a 60-month timeframe (Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Middlesex and Passaic counties). Participating communities will show a 25% relative increase in children birth through age 3 that are achieving age appropriate developmental health in all 5 developmental domains. 2) Continue to strengthen state and local leadership/expertise by building upon our prior/current work on NJ-ECCS/Help Me Grow to ensure an integrated system of care to improve infant/ child outcomes, eliminate disparities, support parents and families and strengthen communities.

**Services Provided:** Through ECCS Impact, DCF (state backbone organization) facilitates state and local partnerships across EC service sectors, and with parents/families. At the local level, the Central Intake hub (local backbone) in each place-based community partners with the County Council for Young Children to learn/apply the ECCS CoIIN approach and collective impact process to improve results for families. Participation in ECCS entails 3 consecutive 18-month CoIIN cycles over a 5-year period. Using a two-generation approach, NJ provides direct linkages for children and their families to primary health care, screening, and early intervention for developmental delays; and help address other child/family services and supports.

### **ECCS Impact/Help Me Grow Staff:**

***Ericka Dickerson, LSW***

*ECCS Impact/Help Me Grow Project Manager  
Phone: 609-888-7512*

[\*Ericka.Dickerson@dcf.nj.gov\*](mailto:Ericka.Dickerson@dcf.nj.gov)

***Nicole Hopkins***

*ECCS Impact/Help Me Grow Program Assistant  
Phone: 609-888-7793*

[\*Nicole.Hopkins@dcf.nj.gov\*](mailto:Nicole.Hopkins@dcf.nj.gov)

***Lenore Scott, LSW***

*Administrator, Office of Early Childhood Services  
Phone: 609-888-7393*

[\*Lenore.Scott@dcf.nj.gov\*](mailto:Lenore.Scott@dcf.nj.gov)

***Daniela Hellman, MSW***

*Early Childhood Quality Improvement Manager  
Phone: 609-888-7550*

[\*Daniela.Hellman@dcf.nj.gov\*](mailto:Daniela.Hellman@dcf.nj.gov)

**NJ Department of Children's and Families  
Family & Community Partnerships  
Office of Early Childhood Services  
50 East State St, 7th floor, Trenton NJ, 08625**