

## Request for Applications

### Section 1. Overview

#### Purpose

The purpose for this Request for Applications (RFA) is to solicit participation for a Community of Practice (CoP) from select Help Me Grow (HMG) affiliates with an interest in enhancing the integration of their HMG system in the early learning sector, as a critical piece of HMG's mission to advance developmental promotion, early detection, and linkage to services. This opportunity is made available to affiliates of the HMG National Network as a part of HMG National Center's continued effort to provide opportunities to enhance the impact of the HMG model.

The HMG–Early Learning Integration project includes the refinement of innovative approaches, presented as a part of the 10k Innovation Challenge at the 2017 HMG National Forum, by HMG Orange County, CA and HMG Vermont to strengthen the capacity of early learning settings to 1) promote parent-engaged developmental monitoring together with regular, formal developmental screening by providing professional development and resources to early care sites, and 2) link to HMG for children for whom there are concerns, by promoting awareness, providing tools, and leveraging available technology. This CoP has been specifically designed to provide an opportunity for HMG affiliates to focus on their own efforts in building and optimizing partnerships with early learning providers and leaders while working alongside a cohort of HMG peers to incorporate strategies to further their integration of HMG and the early learning sector.

#### Approach

The approach for this project will utilize Family & Community Outreach activities to engage community partners and resources available through the Centralize Access Point to strength relationships and supports provided to those within the early learning sector. Participating affiliates will receive opportunities to exchange their own experiences and strategies to engage early learning through National Center facilitated peer-learning activities and receive project support and expertise from the HMG National Center, HMG Orange County, HMG Vermont, and leadership from the BUILD Initiative's QRIS Network.

### Section 2. Opportunities to Participate

#### Project Objectives

- I. Create a Community of Practice among selected HMG affiliates to explore the efficacy of activities identified in a defined project model (see below) to initiate new or enhance existing efforts to further integrate HMG and the early learning sector
- II. Identify best practices for HMG and early learning integration to spread across the HMG affiliate network

#### Participation

Participation in this CoP will require HMG affiliates to identify priorities for their HMG system from the project model below. An individualized project plan to incorporate these priorities into their HMG system must be developed and executed within the 18-month of this project.

### HMG-EL Integration Project Model

#### *Core Components*

<b>System Building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Creating a linkage between EL settings and HMG as a resource to support referral and linkage</li> <li>● Supporting information sharing across the interface between EL, HMG, child health care providers, and parents</li> <li>● Engaging with QRIS leadership to align efforts with QRIS quality indicators</li> </ul>
<b>Technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Linking results of developmental screening with the HMG centralized access point (e.g. API between STAR and HMG)</li> <li>● Promoting family access to and EL utilization of tools such as ASQ online</li> <li>● Engaging with existing developmental screening registries or exploring opportunities to develop registries within a community</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity Building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Providing professional development opportunities to home- and/or center-based settings with a focus on developmental promotion, screening, and accessing HMG to support linkage to services</li> <li>● Leveraging related federal initiatives and evidence-based tools</li> <li>● Evaluating the efficacy of professional development activities</li> <li>● Tracking developmental screening activities for individual children as well as whole populations</li> </ul>

### ***Structural Requirements***

<b>Operational Help Me Grow System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HMG Affiliates in the CoP should have an existing centralized access point and at a minimum, be engaged in some type of family and community outreach effort</li> </ul>
<b>Partnership between EL and HMG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HMG Affiliates in the CoP should have an established relationship with leaders in the Early Learning Sector</li> </ul>

### Eligibility

- HMG Affiliates that have achieved implementation in the Centralized Access Point as indicated in the 2017 HMG National Fidelity Assessment (FA) *or* anticipate achieving full implementation in the 2018 FA
- Affiliates that have demonstrated completion of the below activities as a part of Family & Community Outreach as indicated in the 2017 FA *or* anticipate being able to demonstrate completion of these activities in the 2018 FA
  - Partners for HMG family and community outreach have been identified using set criteria
  - Activities, such as community events and trainings, take place within the community to promote HMG

### Other Relevant Details

- The duration of this project will be November 2018-May 2020
- Community of Practice participants who complete all project activities will be eligible for a modest stipend

### Submitting an Application

Please click [here](#) to access the application for this project, and other supporting materials, on the affiliate side of the HMG National website. **Applications must be completed online by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.**