



*Leveraging Partnerships to Build an  
Early Childhood Systems Model  
through Help Me  
Grow Mississippi*



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# Who Are We?



Help Me Grow  
Mississippi

- ❖ **Linda West**, LCSW, Ph.D., Executive Director  
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Program Director  
Mississippi Families for Kids
- ❖ **Dr. Rodney Washington**, Help Me Grow  
Mississippi Program Evaluator

# About Us



Mississippi Families  
for Kids

Mississippi Families for Kids is a statewide 501-(C-3) nonprofit community service organization dedicated to building strong families and even stronger communities.

Our **Mission** is to ensure the well-being of families and children, through educational development, specialized training, and community-based services. Many of the children we serve need a permanent home; some need counseling due to a sudden change in their life, some have been abused and neglected or are either living with a relative or placed in a foster home. Some are biological families but who need intervention to ensure they stay together.

Mississippi Families for Kids provides an array of services to families and children.

## • Adoption

- Wendy's Wonderful Kids

## • Clinical Services

- Family & Individual Counseling
- Incredible Years DINA Therapeutic Program
- Children Are Reaching Expectation (C.A.R.E.) GEER Grant

## • Outreach

- Relatives Raising Other's Children (RROC)
- Youth Support Groups
- Parent & Teacher Training

## • Help Me Grow

- Respite Care Services



**WHAT WE  
DO?**

# What do you think represents the biggest barrier to collaboration?



Help Me  
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*When Parents Know, Children Grow!*

# Help Me Grow Mississippi Commercial





# Collaboratio



the ultimate intertwining of skills, passions,  
and knowledge – is what concocts the most  
shatterproof forms of changemaking.

-Jan Somerhalder



## Events

Books, Balls, &  
Blocks  
Networking  
Breakfast

Community Forums

Promotes the use of Help Me Grow and provides service providers networking and training opportunities.

A community presence encourages support for and participation in the HMG system and helps with marketing the services. Regularly meetings with service providers also helps build the Help Me Grow resource directory and keeps it up-to-date.

This component is managed by a Help Me Grow Community Liaison who is the “expert” on early childhood programs, services, and initiatives in all regions. The liaison connects the components of the system, as she or he can function as the “go-to” support for the telephone care coordinator to help n

# FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS



 Help Me Grow  
Mississippi




## BOOKS, BALLS, AND BLOCKS

A DEVELOPMENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCREENING EVENT.

Nationwide, it is estimated that approximately 12-16% of American children experience multiple developmental, educational, behavioral, and emotional delays or problems. Experts agree that early detection and treatment of these delays offers the best hope for optimal outcomes. Often services and programs that help children and families prove difficult to identify due to lack of knowledge of availability, eligibility requirements, and transportation restrictions.

Help Me Grow bridges the gap between child healthcare, early care, education, and family support to offer comprehensive physician and community outreach, centralized information, and access to referral centers.

Join us ===== for a FREE, fun family event promoting developmental awareness through play and learning.

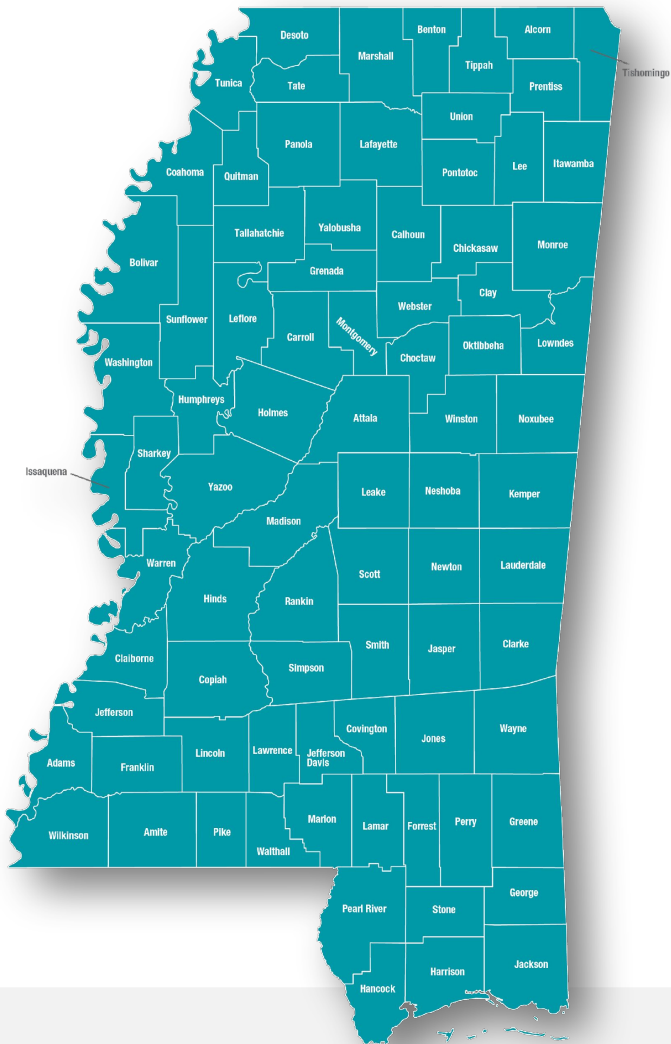
 Schedule your child's screening today and get a free gift card once the screening is complete!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

MFFK.ORG | 601-957-7670 | INFO@MFFK.ORG



Mississippi Families  
for Kids



HMG Mississippi designed this model to impact racial equity strategies that improve and close service gaps by increasing access to services across service deficient communities.

In the initial planning year, a sound list of community partners consisting of state and local agencies, providers and advocates were invited to join our efforts and worked to offer insight and assessments of current trends in services for our state

Through extensive readiness assessments and technical assistance from the National Center, the MAC Center was identified as the best possible option to support our expansion plan.

It is important to note that while the teams researched other options like the United Way's 2-1-1 Mississippi and Mississippi Department of Human Services PRN (child abuse and neglect hotline).

The model was designed to a formal launch in October 2018. Currently, HMG Mississippi has positioned itself for statewide reach through its modified Expansion Plan.

# Help Me Grow Mississippi

## Centralized Access Point



The Centralized Access Point (CAP) is located within the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District/MAC Center. It can be reached by phone or visiting [www.mffk.org](http://www.mffk.org)

The CAP serves as the “go-to” place for family members, child health care providers, and other professionals seeking information, support, and referrals for children.



### Expected Outcome:

- Assist more families with early childhood questions - As evidenced by the number of calls received
- Increase the number of families receiving care coordination services
- Increase the number of child developmental screenings completed
- Increase the number of families effectively connected to services

# The Importance of Building a Systems Model in Mississippi



1. Poverty indicators (i.e. lack of transportation, stable housing, and consistent contact number) have a significant impact on screenings and follow-up care with families in rural communities.
2. Educating families on developmental milestones and infant mental health in a way that removes stigma from their personal perspectives on mental illness and support in a negative context.
3. Common messaging and delivery that is culturally relevant to the population served by getting their feedback through community marketing and print materials.

# Collaboration Points:

1. Identifying opportunities for collaborative blending where the entire team is speaking the same language and not appearing as separate entities performing parts of the whole.

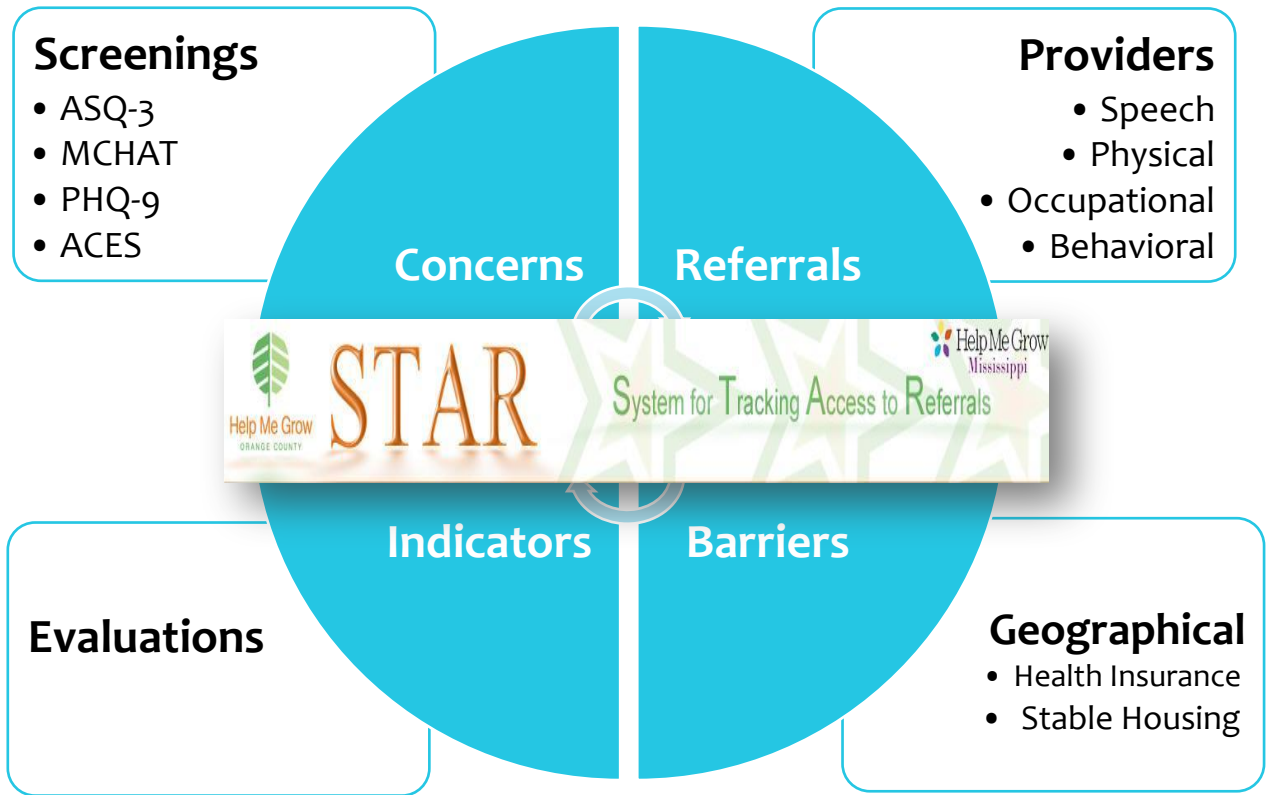
2. Defining measures of accountability where we are all measuring success in the same way for the whole collaborative and not a, “my part is working” attitude.

3. Creating specific agreements that define roles and responsibility so that there is no assuming who is assigned to complete program functions.

4. Establishing a means of information sharing that is evaluated



# How Data Collection is used to increase collaboration





# Help Me Grow Mississippi Funders & Partnerships



W.K.  
KELLOGG  
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MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



MAC Center  
Mississippi Access to Care



**mseca**  
Education | Connections | Advocacy



JACKSON-HINDS  
COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER



MISSISSIPPI THRIVE!  
CHILD HEALTH  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

CHILDREN'S OF MISSISSIPPI AND MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY



INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Questions

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Answers

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