BUILDING IMPACT

REPORT HEADLINES

2021

Help Me Grow®
National Center

About Help Me Grow

Help Me Grow (HMG) is not a stand-alone program, but rather a system model that utilizes and builds on existing resources in order to develop and enhance a comprehensive approach to early childhood system building in any given community. Successful implementation of the Help Me Grow Model requires communities to identify existing resources, creatively and collectively maximize opportunities, and build a coalition that words towards a shared agenda.

The HMG Model helps states and communities leverage existing resources to advance an integrated, cross-sector system that:

● **Promotes the optimal development of all young children;**

● **Helps identify concerns and needs among families with young children;**

● **Links families to community-based resources;**

● **Works in partnership with families by prioritizing parent and caregiver goals for their children's well-being; and**

● **Follows-up with families as well as their service and health care providers to ensure a synergistic approach to support.**

HMG is a framework, or blueprint, and as such can be adapted to fit local context. All context are local, and those unique local complexities have implications for the ways in which HMG is implemented. Across the country, HMG looks and feels different, but the existence and cooperation of four Core Components define the Model:

A *Centralized Access Point* assists families and professionals in connecting children to the network of community resources working to help them thrive.

Family & Community Outreach builds parent and provider understanding of healthy child development, supportive services available to families in the community, and how both are important to improving children's outcomes.

Child Health Care Provider Outreach supports early detection and intervention efforts and connects medical providers to the network of community resources to best support families.

Data Collection supports evaluation, helps identify systemic gaps, bolsters advocacy efforts, and guides quality improvement.

It is the co-operation of the Core Components that defines the system:

Outreach to families and community-based service providers engages parents and caregivers as partners, as well as constituents of the Centralized Access Point, which provides HMG Care Coordination and support in navigating the landscape of programs and services for families with young children. HMG outreach efforts support child health care providers by enhancing their developmental promotion and early identification activities. When child health providers identify a concern or need, the HMG Centralized Access Point offers a trusted and efficient solution for care coordination, referral, and linkage to services and resources. Additionally, HMG closes the feedback loop with child health care providers, so families are optimally supported, communication is streamlined, redundancies minimized, gaps identified, and children receive what they need, when they need it.

About the Building Impact Report

To understand the national impact of HMG and its efficacy in advancing comprehensive early childhood system building, the HMG National Center collects data from each system across the HMG National Affiliate Network. Data collected by the HMG Fidelity Assessment enables the National Center to monitor system-level progress in Model implementation, share lessons learned across the National Affiliate Network, and advocate for policy change.

This 2021 HMG Building Impact Report synthesizes data collected through the Fidelity Assessment from 107 of the HMG National Affiliate Network's 118 HMG systems operating within 28 affiliate states and Washington D.C. This Building Impact Report Headlines serves as an abridged version to the full report, to be released in summer 2022.

Data reported in the HMG 2021 Fidelity Assessment were collected by affiliates across the National Affiliate Network between August 31, 2020 and September 1, 2021, in order to capture the following:

● **The breadth and scope of HMG system implementation and progress since 2020**

● **Fidelity to each Core Component of the HMG Model**

● **The capacity of HMG to reach children, families, community partners, and child health care providers**

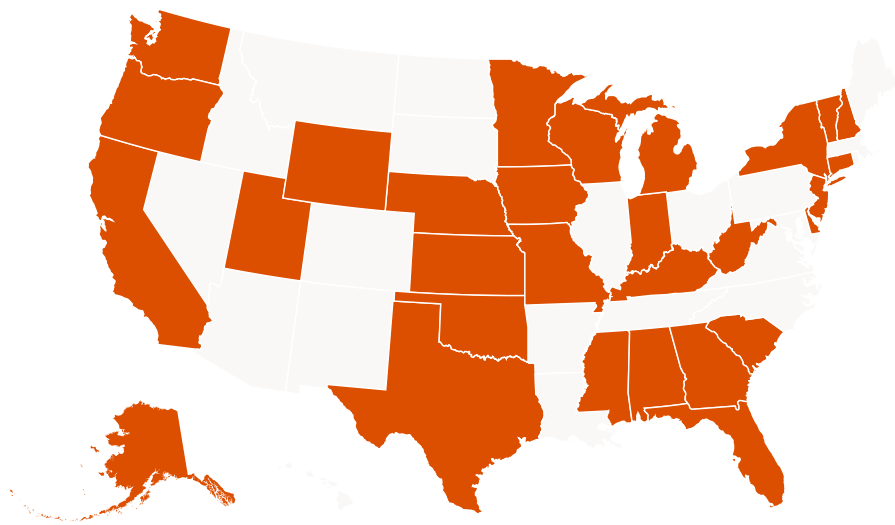● **Novel approaches and system enhancements currently explored by the National Affiliate Network**

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2021
Building Impact Highlights

The HMG National Affiliate Network

The HMG National Affiliate Network represents an ever-growing, powerful coalition of states, communities, and individuals invested in ambitious and resourceful early childhood systems that optimally serve all families and children. In 2021, the HMG National Affiliate Network included 28 states and the District of Columbia, operating 118 HMG systems.

Network Growth Over Time

states, count (n=28)

| 2002 | 2005 | 2008 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
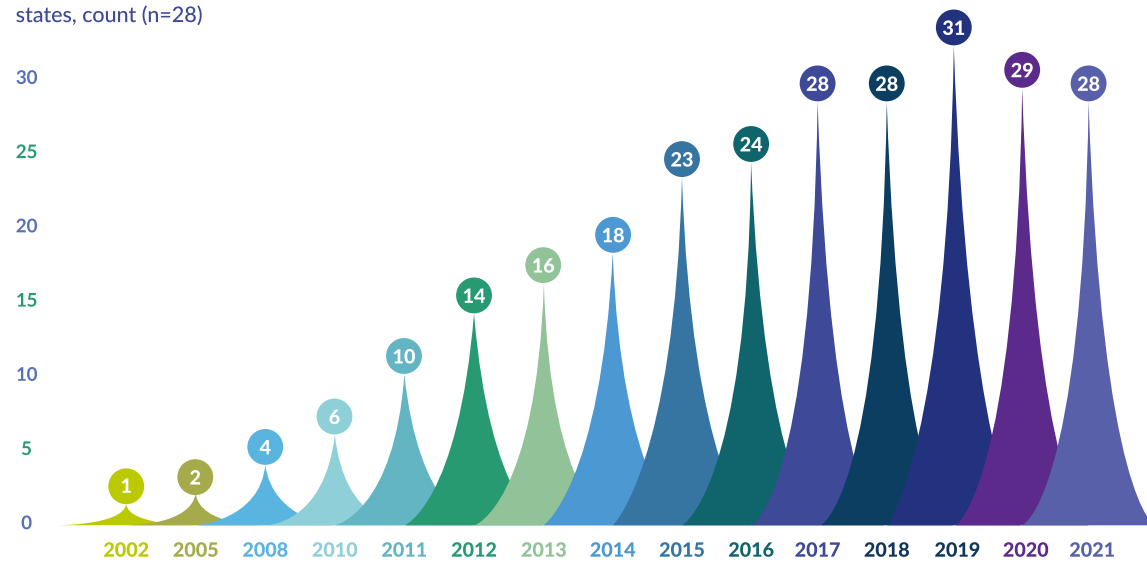
Progress in Implementing the Model

Implementing the HMG Model requires large-scale, cross-sector system change, which takes significant time and effort. The HMG National Center assesses the Affiliate Network annually to determine how far along each HMG system is in Model implementation, using a scale of exploration, installation, implementation, and finally, sustainability. To be classified as being in full implementation, systems must be actively conducting all sixteen Key Activities of the HMG Model in their community or state.

In 2021, the majority of the HMG National Affiliate Network was classified as being in an installation phase of the HMG Model.

National Affiliate Network Implementation Status, Full Model
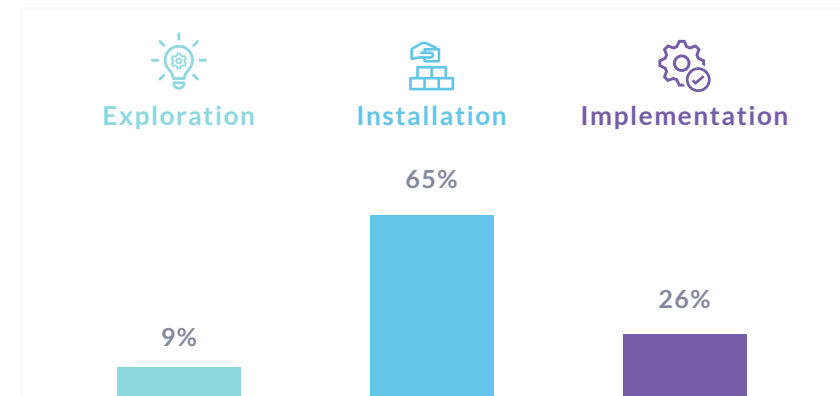
Over the course of 2021, sixteen HMG systems advanced into full implementation of the Model, joining the 12 HMG systems that remained in full implementation from previous years. This is the most significant annual increase in the number of systems reaching full Model implementation in the history of the Fidelity Assessment.

In addition to the 28 HMG systems fully implementing the Model in 2021, 19 systems reported being very close to reaching full implementation, only needing to achieve one or two more of the Model's Key Activities to be classified as operating in full implementation.

Among each of the individual four HMG Core Components, the National Affiliate Network is furthest along in implementing Family & Community Outreach, with 84% of HMG systems in full implementation of this Core Component.

Major Findings from this Report

Throughout the year, HMG systems collect data on the number of interactions between HMG, families, community partners, and health professionals within their local HMG system. This year:

- In 2021, HMG systems reported serving **123,626 children** and families through the Centralized Access Point.

- Of the families that engaged with the Centralized Access Point, an average of **90% reported that HMG met their identified needs.**

- In 2021, the National Affiliate Network **reached 335,710 family and community members through events led or coordinated by HMG systems** to promote awareness of child development and/or HMG services.

- In 2021, HMG systems reported reaching **39,031 individuals from community-based agencies** through HMG-led events.

- In 2021, HMG systems **conducted 2,874 trainings for child health care providers** on the topics of developmental surveillance and screening and the HMG Centralized Access Point as a resource to support referral and linkage.

- In 2021, **36% more HMG systems reporting using HMG data to inform community-level change** than the year before.

- In 2021, **57% of HMG systems reported having specific goals for advancing racial equity**.

- Data suggest the following priority areas for attention and development across the HMG National Affiliate Network:
  - o Closing the feedback loop to child health care providers at least 75% of the time
  - o Updating the HMG resource directory at least quarterly
  - o Ensuring follow-up with families at least 75% of the time

Notable Changes from 2020 to 2021

- Seven new HMG systems joined the National Affiliate Network through regional expansion within existing HMG affiliate states. States operating multiple HMG systems include: California, Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Texas, and Washington.

- Nineteen HMG systems advanced their overall implementation status, more than double the number of HMG systems that advanced their overall implementation status the year before.

- The number of individuals reached through HMG events increased 127% over the previous year. This increase is mainly attributed to the virtualization of outreach efforts due to COVID-19 and social distancing policies. This shift to virtual outreach has allowed for more outreach events with less coordination effort and increased attendance without the costs and time of travel. While some COVID-19 precautions have been lifted, HMG systems continue to conduct virtual events in addition to traditional in-person offerings.

- Sixteen HMG systems experienced significant increases in call volume to their HMG Centralized Access Point. Of these sixteen systems, 69% reported fielding 2-3 times as many calls to their Centralized Access Point in 2021 than in the previous year.

Enhancements and Innovations

- **Advancing Racial Equity**

  HMG systems are uniquely positioned to support all families through a targeted universalism approach, which is the pursuit of universal outcomes though targeted strategies. HMG systems work to ensure that all families are provided with equitable access to the resources they need, when they need them. In 2021, HMG systems implemented the following strategies to advance racial equity in their communities:

  o Developed new supports and materials (both verbal and written) in languages beyond English and Spanish.

  o Created formal HMG staff positions – combined with targeted hiring strategies - to be fulfilled by parent leaders and/or community members.

  o Revised organizational mission and vision statements to include intentional language and action items designed to advance racial equity and social justice.

  o Investigated HMG data to identify which families are currently being served by HMG and which are not in order to guide novel, targeted outreach strategies.

● **Using HMG Data to Make Community Change**

In 2021, 36% more HMG systems reported using HMG data to make community change than the previous year. HMG systems reported collecting, analyzing, and sharing data regarding barriers to access faced by families, as well as to guide the community in expanding efforts designed to meet those needs.

To drive data-informed community change, HMG systems reported reviewing data such as:

o HMG Centralized Access Point caller demographics and call volume statistics.

o Reach of HMG Family and Community Outreach efforts.

o Number and nature of community partnerships.

o Aggregate reports on developmental screening results.

o Rates of vaccination and well-child visit attendance.

Common themes emerged around the ways in which HMG systems used data in 2021 to inform community change, including:

● Using feedback collected through follow-up efforts with families to address long wait times for referred services.

● Using HMG data to identify and strategize around barriers faced by communities of color and those that speak languages other than English.

● Using demographic data from callers to expand the HMG resource directory with special focus on:

o Services that can be provided virtually.

o Services that do not require citizenship documentation from families.

o Services that can provide support in multiple languages.

o Services that require minimal transportation for the family.

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