

Help Me Grow: So All Children Can Shine



Meeting Name/Venue

Additional Text

Date

Presenter Name

Title

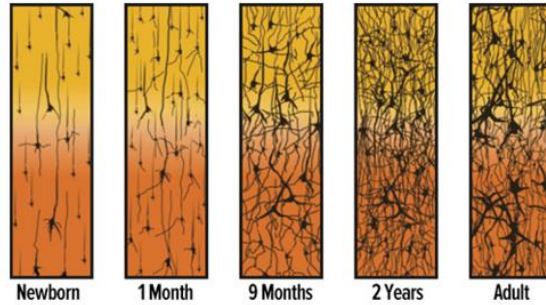
Affiliation

What if our goal for early childhood health and development services is not ‘merely’ to treat or even prevent childhood diseases and disorders, but is also to promote optimal healthy development for all children?



An Opportunity to Maximize Young Children's Potential

Experience & Brain Architecture

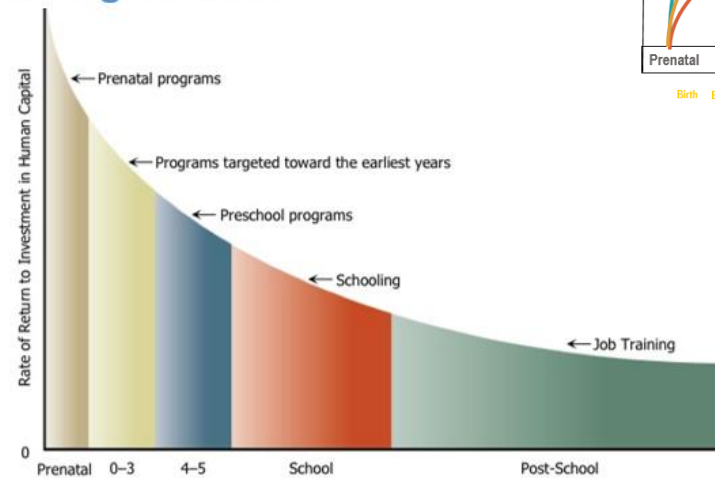


Experience leads to neural changes in the brain (e.g., synaptogenesis)

- **Birth:** 50 trillion synapses
- **1 year:** 1,000 trillion
- **20 years:** 500 trillion

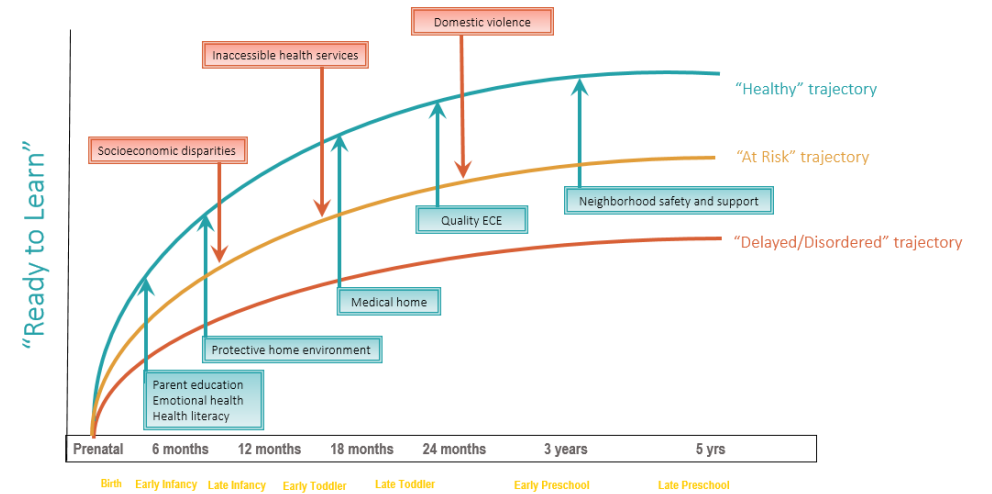
Synapse Density Over Time FIGURE 3
 Source: Adapted from Corel, J.L. The postnatal development of the human cerebral cortex. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1975.

The Productivity Argument Investment in Young Children



Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics

Developmental Trajectories



Graphic Concept Adapted from Neal Halfon, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities

What We Know

- Children with developmental/behavioral concerns are **eluding early detection**
- Many **initiatives exist** to provide services to young children, their families
- A **gap exists** between child health, child development, and early childhood education programs
- Children and their families would benefit from a **coordinated, region-wide system** of early detection, intervention for children at developmental risk



What We Know

“The most effective long-term strategy appears to be the development of a comprehensive, coordinated, community-wide approach focused on preventing low- and medium-risk families from becoming high-risk, as well as providing intensive services to those who already have reached a high-risk status.”



- Chamberlin RW. Preventing low birth weight, child abuse, and school failure: the need for comprehensive, community-wide approaches. Pediatrics in Review 1992;13(2):64-71

Help Me Grow

A Solution for All Young Children to Shine

Help Me Grow: Strengthens System Infrastructure

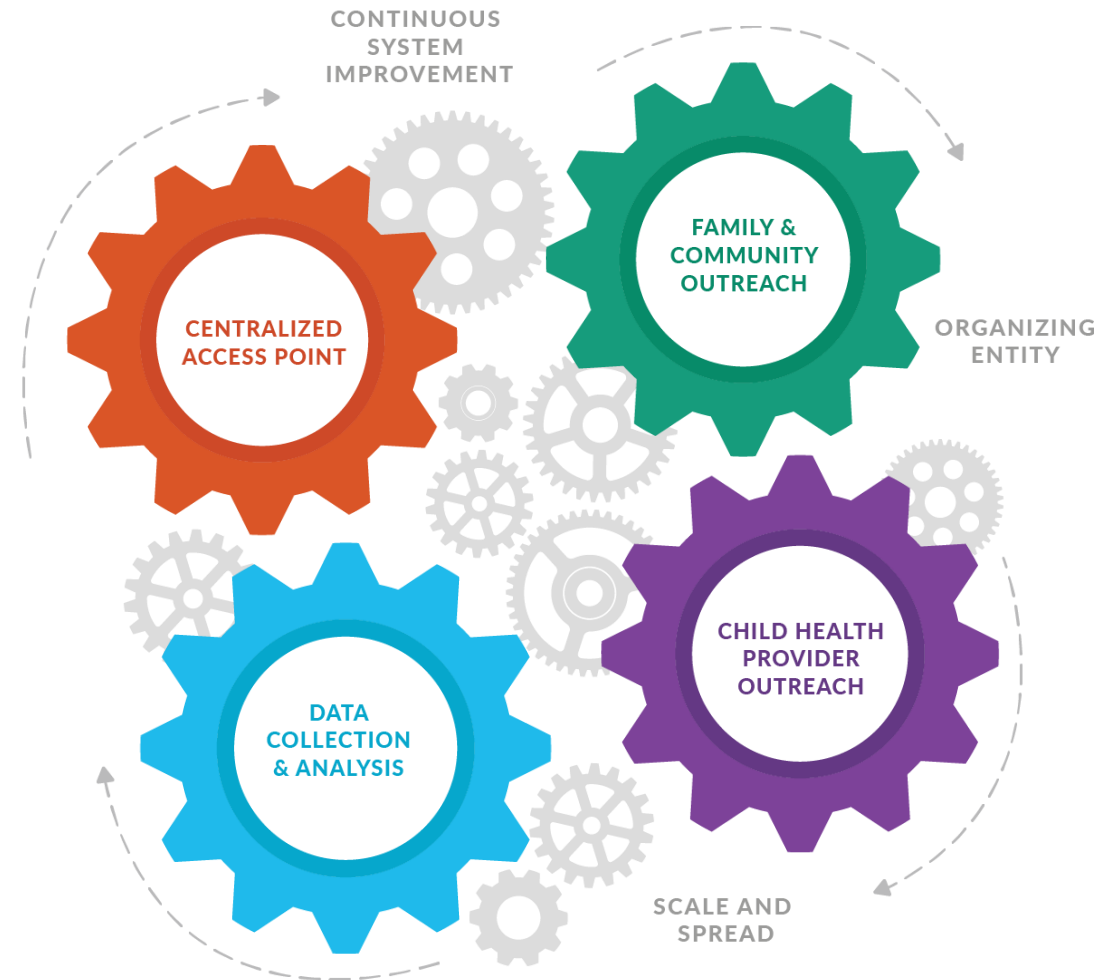


WE BELIEVE THAT ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE ABLE TO GROW, DEVELOP, AND THRIVE TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

The Help Me Grow Model is the only evidence-based early childhood system model existing nationwide. It provides a unique framework to implement comprehensive, cross-sector, coordinated, effective early childhood systems that promote equity and strengthen family resilience and protective factors.

When all of the organizations working on behalf of young children work together, we can:

- **Better prevent or reduce the impact that stress or adversity may have on children and families**
- **Increase protective factors that can maximize the well-being of children and families**
- **Advance equity for families with young children**



The Help Me Grow Model's Core Components & Key Activities



Help Me Grow Core Components & Key Activities

MODEL CORE COMPONENT	KEY ACTIVITIES
Centralized Access Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialized child development line• Linkage and follow-up• Researching resources• Real-time directory maintenance
Family and Community Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engaged community partners• Networking• Community events and trainings• Marketing
Child Health Provider Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physician champion• Training on surveillance and screening• Training on referral and linkage• Closing the feedback loop
Data Collection and Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data monitoring• Sharing data across partners• Continuous quality improvement• Community change through data

HMG Core Component: Centralized Access Point

Four Key Activities

- 1. Specialized child development line.** A specialized child development line - distinct from a general call line - which can be directly accessed by families and providers.
- 2. Linkage to service & follow-up.** Capacity to facilitate connection to a variety of early childhood services and to follow-up with families at least 75% of the time (if consented by family) to ensure successful linkage.
- 3. Researching resources for families.** A systematic process to research available resources in the community.
- 4. Real time directory maintenance.** An early childhood-specific HMG Resource Directory that is systematically updated at least annually and can be updated in real-time as ad hoc changes arise.



HMG Core Component: Family & Community Outreach

Four Key Activities

- 1. Utilize community partners.** Partners for HMG Family & Community Outreach have been identified and partnership extends beyond inclusion in the HMG Resource Directory.
- 2. Networking.** Meetings are facilitated to support networking among programs and agencies.
- 3. Community events & trainings.** Outreach is conducted at least twice a year to increase awareness of HMG.
- 4. Marketing.** Marketing opportunities, including social media, are utilized to promote HMG.



HMG Core Component: Child Health Care Provider Outreach

Four Key Activities

- 1. Physician Champion.** Identification of and active participation with a HMG Physician Champion who advocates for HMG in the broader medical community.
- 2. Training on surveillance & screening.** HMG ensures that targeted outreach on effective developmental surveillance and screening is being conducted with child health care providers through education, trainings, or workshops.
- 3. Training on referral & linkage.** HMG ensures that targeted outreach on referral and linkage through HMG is being conducted with child health care providers through education, trainings, or workshops.
- 4. Feedback loop.** HMG Care Coordinators close the feedback loop by sharing information about screening and/or referral outcomes with referring child health care providers in at least 75% of instances (if consented by family).



HMG Core Component: Data Collection & Analysis

Four Key Activities

1. **Data monitoring.** HMG-specific data are regularly reviewed, tracked, and analyzed and meaningful reports can be generated.
2. **Sharing data across partners.** HMG-specific data are shared across partners, such as through regular reporting, ad hoc requests, or targeted evaluation projects.
3. **Continuous quality improvement.** Quality improvement projects are conducted using HMG-specific data.
4. **Community change through data.** HMG-specific data, such as identification of systemic barriers, are leveraged to generate community and/or policy change.





The Help Me Grow Model's Structural Requirements

Help Me Grow Model: Structural Requirements

Organizing Entity

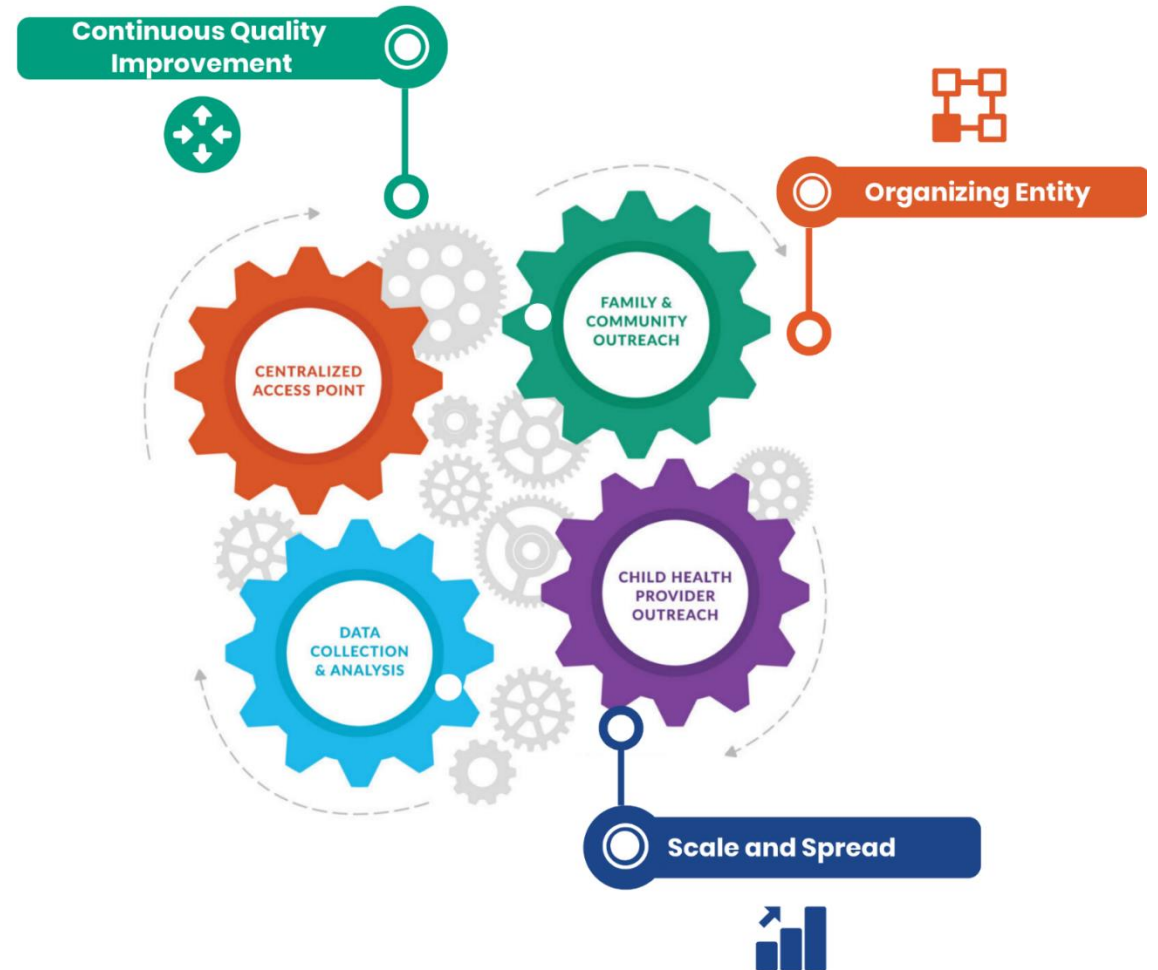
- Guides vision and strategy at the state and local levels
- Supports alignment of activities across local systems
- Facilitates shared measurement practices
- Advances policy through identification of gaps & barriers

Continuous System Improvement

- Emphasizes improvements over time that continue to produce the best outcomes for children and families, maximize efficiency, and yield best practices

Spread & Scale

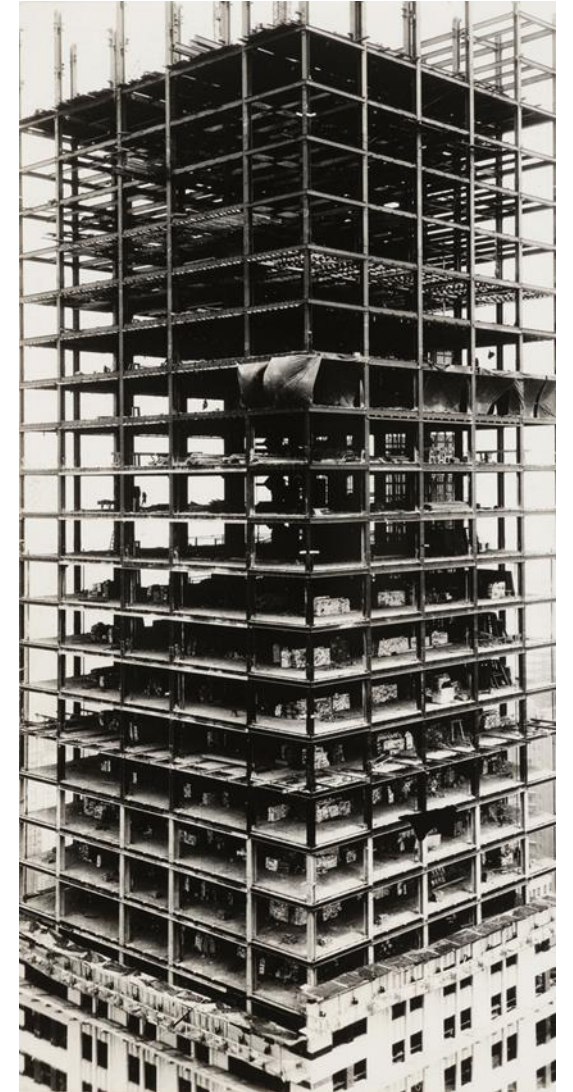
- Deliberate efforts to increase impact of HMG efforts
- Systems are unique, but aligned and coordinated
- Leverages lessons learned through previous efforts
- Ensures all families with young children have access to HMG



Help Me Grow Structural Requirements

ORGANIZING ENTITY

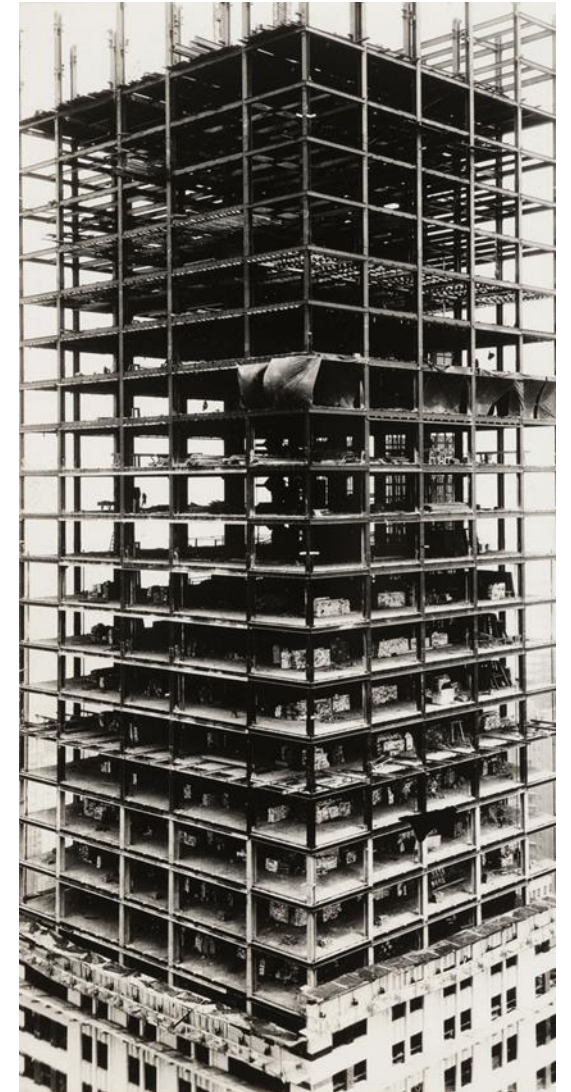
- Guides vision and strategy at the state and local levels
- Supports alignment of activities across local systems
- Facilitates shared measurement practices
- Increases and leverages political will
- Advances policy through identification of gaps and barriers
- Mobilizes funding



Help Me Grow Structural Requirements

SPREAD AND SCALE

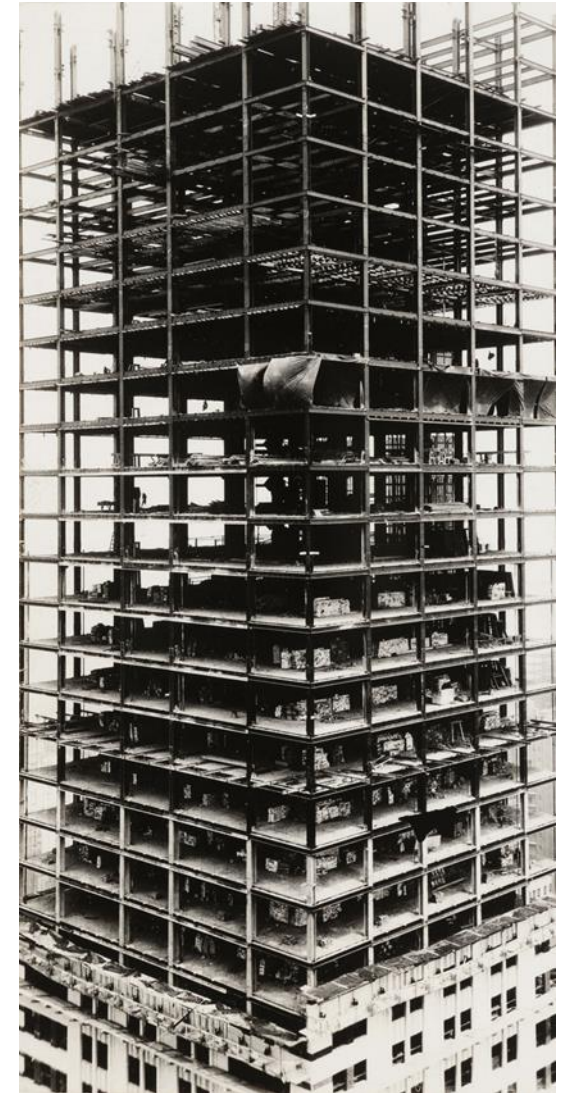
- Deliberate efforts to increase impact of successfully-tested HMG efforts
- Systems are unique, but aligned and coordinated
- Leverages lessons learned through previous implementation efforts
- Enhances collective power and momentum
- Ensures all families with young children have access to HMG



Help Me Grow Structural Requirements

CONTINUOUS SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

Emphasizes incremental improvements over time that continue to produce the best outcomes for children and families, maximize efficiency, and yield best practices that can be applied across the state



What Can Help Me Grow Mean for Us?

Help Me Grow's Unique Value



HMG is a **cross-sector, systems-based** approach that connects families to the resources they need to help **all children thrive**.



HMG builds and maintains a **network of community resources across sectors** and coordinates services across the network.



HMG engages in effective outreach to ensure a consistent and **best practice approach** among child health providers and community-based organizations.



HMG supports children in their **early years**, which have the longest-lasting consequences on children's health and well-being.



HMG services and resources are **flexible, data driven and targeted** to each community and individual family served.



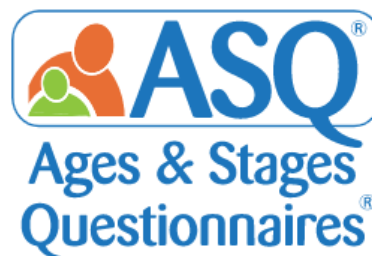
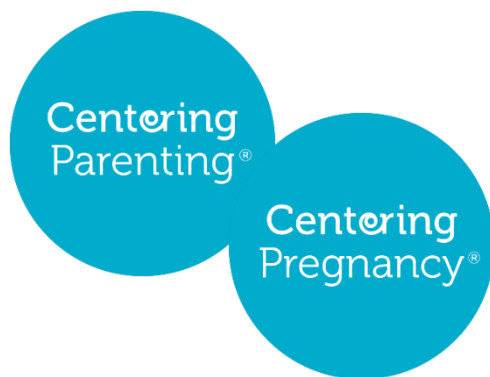
HMG builds **relationships** with families over time and serves as a **trusted resource** as children's needs evolve.



Help Me Grow's Unique Value

- Maintains **low cost** by leveraging existing services and making optimal use of existing resources – demonstrated return on investment
- Facilitates **cross-sector** integration
- Promotes a **shared vision**
- Builds strong **evidence base** and use data most effectively
- Provides **care coordination, referral, linkage, and follow-up** for all families
- Supports early childhood providers in **developmental monitoring and screening**
- **Advances equity** through Targeted Universalism, promoting the healthy development of all children, including targeted strategies for specific populations

As a system-building model, HMG helps integrate evidence-based programs and promising innovations into state maternal-early childhood sectors to make the best use of existing resources, diffuse best practices, and foster optimal child and family outcomes.



A network of community resources works like a power grid



Yet, the grid is not always set up in a way that allows these resources to run evenly throughout a community.

For some families, the grid functions well – these families can plug in and the resources flow consistently and reliably so they get what they need to succeed.

For others, the grid is patchy – the resource flow is weak and unreliable; families either can't plug in or when they do, they don't get what they need.

Help Me Grow Engineering a Powerful Resource Grid



Families benefit as Help Me Grow strengthens the resource grid by maintaining a current directory of available services and connecting service providers to each other to create an interconnected system. Families can easily plug in from wherever there are and access what they want and need.

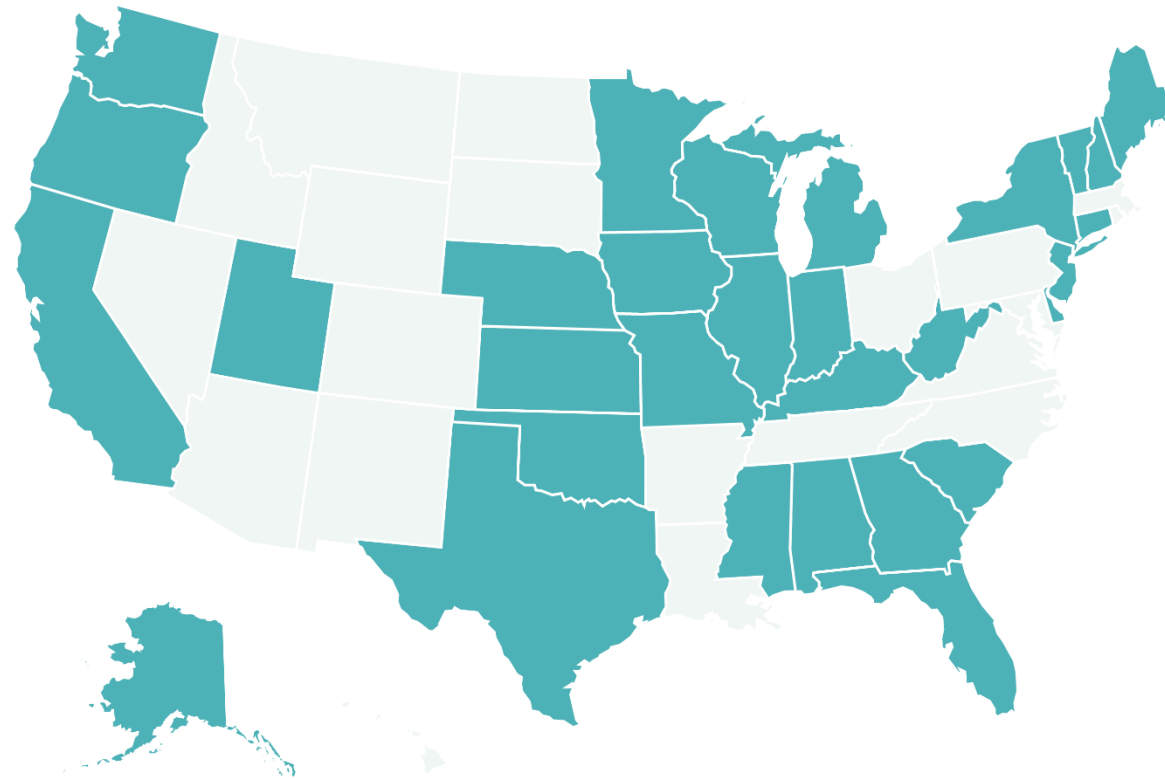
Help Me Grow's Impact



Help Me Grow National Affiliate Network



30 States and the District of Columbia together operating over 130 HMG systems



Help Me Grow Value Proposition

Fidelity to a National, Evidence-Based Model

Centralized Access Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialized child development line• Linkage and follow-up• Researching resources• Real-time directory maintenance	✓ Average linkage rate for HMG affiliates (2020): 74%, an increase of 9% over 2019
Family & and Community Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engaged community partners• Networking• Community events and trainings• Marketing	✓ Networking and community engagement activities increased 14% (virtually and in person) from 2019 to 2020.
Child Health Care Provider Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physician champion• Training on surveillance and screening• Training on referral and linkage• Closing the feedback loop	✓ Physician and medical staff trainings rose 9% between 2019 and 2020. ✓ 66% of HMG systems reporting closing the feedback loop at least 75% of the time (2020).
Data Collection & Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data monitoring• Sharing data across partners• Continuous quality improvement• Community change through data	✓ Half of HMG systems achieved community change through use of their data in 2020.

Right-Size Child Serving System

Centralized, scalable, up-to-date resource, referral & follow-up to services such as:

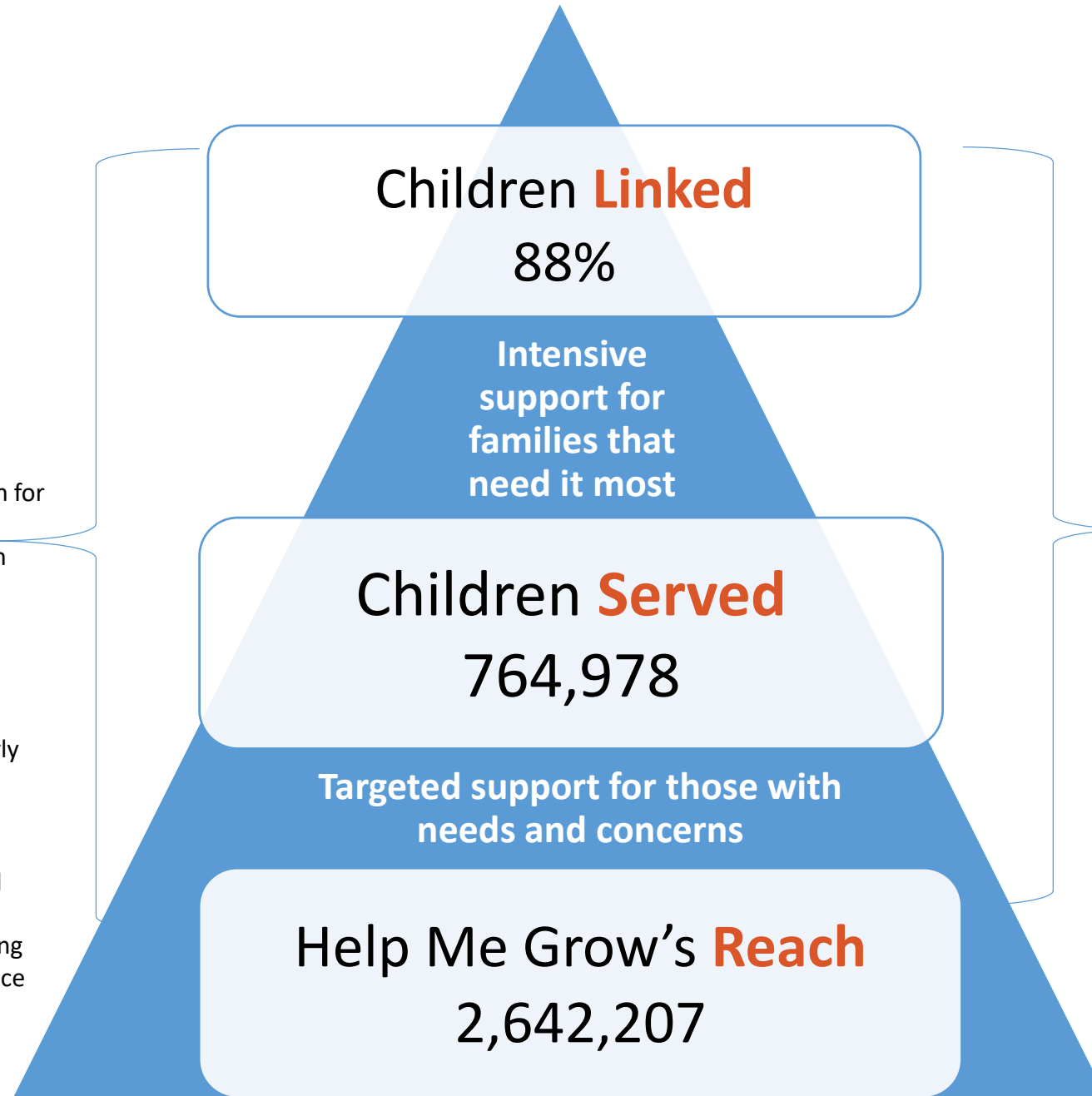
- Home Visiting
- Pediatrics/Child Health
- Early Care & Learning
- Child Welfare
- Social Services

Promotes system efficiencies:

- Decreased administrative burden for families
- Increased access & enrollment in entitlement programs
- Increased enrollment in family support services
- Decreased wait time for developmental evaluations
- Increased & earlier access to early intervention services

Population-level reach:

- Increased understanding of child development among families
- Enhanced capacity of child-serving sectors to implement best practice and influence system change



Return on Investment

For every \$1 invested in HMG, there is a \$7-\$15 return. Returns are short term (< 1 year), long term (>1 year) and multi-sector.



- Children's cognitive, behavioral & social-emotional development
- Educational performance & graduation rates
- Parenting ability & confidence
- Workplace productivity & earning
- Physical & mental health
- Children with developmental delays
- Special education
- Cases of child abuse & neglect
- Domestic violence
- Welfare dependency
- Juvenile & adult crimes

Help Me Grow's Vision for a Brighter Future



Flourishing communities depend on the well-being of all members. By providing families with equitable access to the resources they need when they need them, Help Me Grow works to ensure we all enjoy more vibrant years ahead.

