

Quantifiable Savings in Early Childhood Investments:

Help Me Grow Return on Investment

Monday, June 30, 2025

Presented by the Help Me Grow (HMG) National Center and Manatt Health with:

- HMG Oregon
- HMG Michigan (Oakland & Ottawa)
- HMG South Carolina



Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Help Me Grow's Unique Value
- The Help Me Grow ROI Calculator & ROI Resources
- HMG ROI Data & Affiliate Examples
- Resources & Upcoming Opportunities
- Q&A

Introductions

Welcome & Introductions

Help Me Grow National Center

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HMG Oregon

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Ben Vondran

Program Coordinator Providence Swindells Resource Center/Help Me Grow Oregon

HMG Michigan

Maureen Schmidt, M.Ed, IMH-E® Director of Early Childhood Services Early Childhood Dept.

Help Me Grow's Unique Value

Building a Reliable System Families Can Count On



A network of community resources works like a power grid. When the grid functions well, families can plug in to an organized flow of resources and easily access the ones they need. Help Me Grow strengthens the grid by maintaining a current directory of available services and connecting service providers to each other to create an interconnected system.

Families benefit as Help Me Grow listens to them, links them to services, and provides ongoing support.

HMG'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 approaches** 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 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 change.

HMG Return on Investment

- ★ Cost-savings data can be an effective tool and critical metric for demonstrating an early childhood system's ability to efficiently use resources to maximize impact, and for helping funders and stakeholders understand the value of their contributions.
- ★ HMG affiliates have access to the only multi-sector, early childhood system ROI calculator, providing the ability to calculate unique cost savings and ROI across a subset of services and across a variety of sectors and timeframes



The HMG ROI Calculator

HMG ROI Calculator: Overview

- Customizable Excel model
- Captures **affiliate-specific costs**, **savings**, and **ROI** associated with services and supports provided to children and families across a one-year timeframe

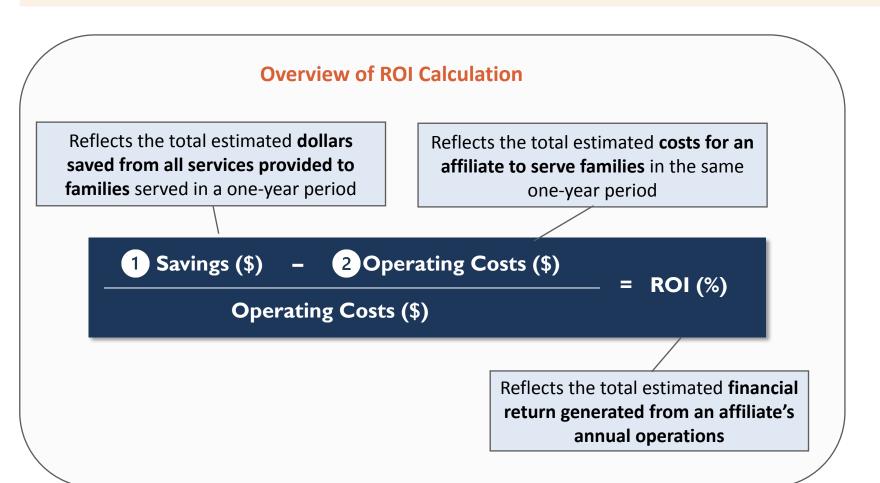
Calculator includes the following services:

- Diversion from unnecessary developmental/behavioral assessments and/or evaluations
- Early detection and intervention for developmental delays (referral to Head Start and EI/IDEA Part C)
- **Positive parenting supports**, including referral to home visiting programs
- Referral to SNAP/WIC benefits
- Screening and referral for maternal depression treatment
- Preventive early dental care

Description: This worksheet shows overall cross-sector savings from															
timeframe, and total Return on Investment is presented below. Thi			uto	-calculates	bas	ed on dat	ae	entered by	the HMG affiliates	in th	ie HMG D	emo	graphics	and	1 HMG
worksheets and total savings calculated on the HMG Services works	snee	ts.													
Total Savings from Select HMG Services Provided Over a One-Year Time P	eriod	i.	lan	1 - Dec 31.	2019	9									
			-	1 000 01)											
	33		Tot	tal Savings		3			Total Ind	vidu	als Serve	f:			
HMG Services	Α	verage		Low		High			Children		2,837		39%		
Diversion	\$	225,205							Adults		4,435		61%		
Diversion for Unnecessary Developmental Assessments	\$	88,931							Total		7,272		100%	3	
Diversion for Unnecessary Early Intervention/IDEA Part C Evaluatio	\$	136,274													
Early Detection	5	2,128,976	5	1,745,640	\$:	2,512,312			Total Savings by Populati			on			
Referral to Head Start/Early Head Start/Other Preschool Programs	5	389,211	\$	353,829	\$	424,594	ı				\$		%		
Referral to Early Intervention/IDEA Part C	\$	1,739,765	\$	1,391,812	-	-			Children	\$2	,561,144		100%		
Positive Parenting	\$	206,963					1		Adults	\$	5,522		0.2%		
Home Visiting	5	1 = 1							Total	\$2	,566,666		100%	8	
Food Security	5	3,996		-		-									
Maternal Depression Treatment	5	1,526	\$	1,220	5	1,831			Total Savin	gs b	y Timefra	me			
Preventive Child Dental	S	-	\$	-	5	-			W. C. S. E. D. C. 1000.12	Ĭ	S		%		
Total Savings	S	2,566,666	\$	2,183,025	\$:	2.950.307			Short Term (≤ 1 year)	\$	230,726		9%		
Total Operating Costs	\$	827,665	100	200					Long Term (> 1 year)		,335,940		91%		
Total Net Savings	\$	1,739,001	\$	1,355,360	\$ 2	2,122,642			Total	\$2	,566,666		100%		
Savings by Sector										4	Healt	h Car	e		
	4	-				Public									
		Early		Special	A	ssistance		Child	Criminal Justice				Commercial Health		OTAL
	Inte	ervention		Education	(S)	NAP/WIC/	1	Welfare	Criminal Justice	IVI	euicaiu		surance		UIAL
HMG Services					- 3	TANF)						ш	surance		
Diversion	\$	136,274								\$	49,559	\$	39,372	\$:	225,2
Diversion for Unnecessary Developmental Assessments										\$	49,559	\$	39,372	\$	88,9
Diversion for Unnecessary Early Intervention/IDEA Part C Evaluatio	\$	136,274												-	136,2
Early Detection			\$	1,739,765	\$										128,9
Referral to Head Start/Preschool Programs					\$	389,211									389,2
Referral to Early Intervention/IDEA Part C			\$	1,739,765											739,7
Positive Parenting			\$	6,147				163,931	\$ 28,688	\$	6,229	\$	1,967		206,9
Home Visiting			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$				\$	
Food Security										\$	2,854	\$	1,142	\$	3,9
										\$	572	\$	954	\$	1,5
Maternal Depression Treatment	0		_												
Maternal Depression Treatment Preventive Child Dental Total Savings	S	136,274	Ţ	1,745,912		200 24	Ļ	452.02	\$ 28,688	\$	59,214	S	43,435	\$.566,6

ROI Calculator Methodology

The Calculator was developed by identifying key services provided by HMG affiliates and then reviewing published research to tie select services to quantifiable cross-sector savings.



Savings accrue across the following sectors:

- Health care
- Criminal justice
- Child welfare
- Public assistance (SNAP/WIC, TANF)
- Special education/Early Intervention

Completing the ROI Calculator

Calculating Total Savings
Savings for each HMG service are calculated individually and then totaled in the final ROI calculation.

Example: Savings from SNAP/WIC Benefits

Calculation	Metric	
Savings from Improved Food Security Among Adults Referred for		
SNAP/WIC Benefits		Number of
Number of adults identified through screening and/or surveillance as food insecure and referred for SNAP/WIC benefits	100	individuals who
Share of adults referred for food assistance who receive SNAP and/or WIC	80%	received
Number of adults referred for food assistance who receive SNAP and/or WIC	80	service
Share of adults who receive food assistance who would not otherwise have accessed SNAP and/or WIC within the year	75%	
Number of adults who recieve food assistance who would not otherwise have accessed SNAP and/or WIC within the year	60	
Percent of adults with Medicaid coverage	35%	
Percent of adults with commercial health insurance covearge	55%	
Estimated health care cost savings per person associated with food security among food insecure adults	\$2,064	Data point from literature
Estimated Medicaid cost savings associated with food security among food insecure adults	\$43,306	review
Estimated commercial cost savings associated with food security among food insecure adults	\$68,013	
Total health care cost savings associated with food security among food insecure adults	\$111,319	
	↑	
	Estimated savings for service	;

Calculating Total CostsTotal **estimated annual operating costs for affiliate**providing all services are entered for cost side of ROI equation.

Option A: Enter Total HMG Costs.		
If known, please enter total affiliate costs for one-year	timefrar	ne here.
Total Costs	\$	488,470
Option B: Calculate Total HMG Costs.		
Affiliates may use the optional HMG Cost Calculation Te calculate total costs for one-year timeframe.	mplate	below to
Optional HMG Cost Calculation Template		
Fringe Rate		25%
Indirect Rate		10%
Cost Centers	Amoun	t
Program Staff: Salaries & Fringe	\$	303,750
Total Salaries	\$	243,000
Fringe	\$	60,750
Contracted Services	\$	34,500
Special Projects/Events	\$	15,000
Office Expenses	\$	58,350
Travel & Conferences	\$	32,464
Total Estimated Direct Costs	\$	444,064
Total Estimated Indirect Costs	\$	44,406
Total Costs	\$	488,470

Interpreting the Calculator's Findings

Not all HMG services have been shown to yield quantifiable savings in existing research articles. The HMG ROI Calculator should be used in conjunction with other tools (e.g., Business Case, Audience Guides) to effectively communicate all HMG impacts.

Example: HMG Business Case



For every \$1 invested, Help Me Grow generates

more than \$2 i) quantifiable* savings over the longer term.







Note: *ROI captures quantifiable cost savings only, and therefore likely underestimates the total value of HMG services to individuals, communities and society at large. Actual savings are likely significantly greater than quantifiable savings only.

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Return on Investment	Average			
Total Savings	\$ 2,586,271			
Short-Term Savings	\$ 250,332			
Long-Term Savings	\$ 2,335,940			
Total Operating Costs	\$ 827,665			
Short Term ROI (≤1 year)	-70%			
Longer Term ROI (1 year+)**	212%			

Savings accrue across both the short-term and longer-term.

- **Short-term savings** reflect savings that accrue over a one-year timeframe.
- **Longer-term savings** reflect savings accrued over one year or longer.

HMG ROI Resources

ROI Toolkit Resources

 Supports affiliates in the calculating and leveraging of local ROI Data





HMG ROI Calculator

Methodology Talking points resource

ROI Audience Guides

ROI Guidebook

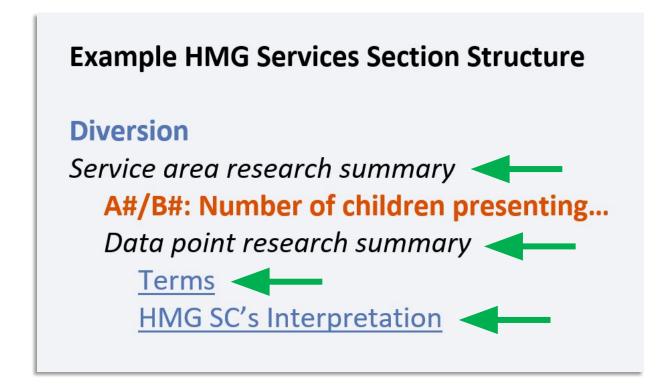
HMG ROI Guidebook

What is in the HMG ROI Guidebook?

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Considerations When Using the HMG ROI Calculato	
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HMG ROI CALCULATOR WORKSHEETS	• 879008845550V395099489V
HMG Savings Summary	2) Early Detection
HMG Demographics	3) Positive Parenting
HMG Costs	4) Food Security
Diversion	
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Features of the HMG ROI Guidebook



Features of the HMG ROI Guidebook

Total Savings by Timeframe							
		\$	%				
Short Term (≤ 1 year)	\$	233,015	23%				
Longer Term (> 1 year)	\$	760,210	77%				
Total	\$	993,225	100%				

Example Interpretations of the Total Savings by Timeframe Section of the HMG Savings Summary Worksheet

- In less than one year, HMG System generated savings of \$XYZ by diverting children from receiving unnecessary evaluations and assessments, connecting families to food banks and other basic needs assistance, and helping identify and treat maternal depression.
- The majority of the savings HMG System generated via services provided in YEAR will accrue in the long term (over a year or more).
- HMG System generated approximately \$XYZ in savings that will accrue over the longer term. For example, by identifying and connecting X children to early intervention services, HMG System is reducing State's future spending on special education for these children by over \$XYZ.

HMG Affiliate Cost Savings

HMG Affiliate Cost Savings







- All HMG systems who completed the ROI calculator reported positive total savings
- Range in calculated savings: \$670K to \$97M



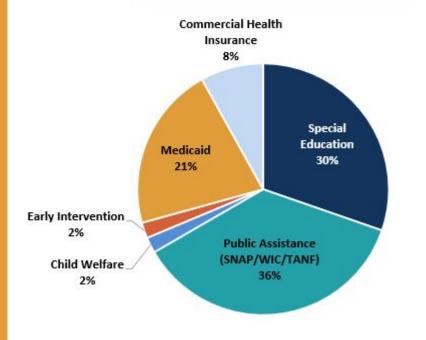
 Long-term ROI was overall positive for systems, including data such as

\$5, \$15, and \$29

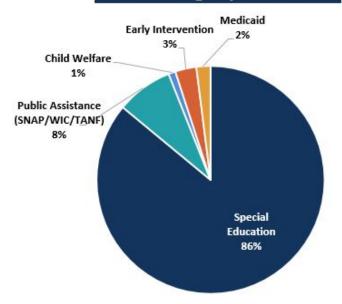
in quantifiable savings for every \$1 invested in HMG!

HMG Affiliate Cost Savings

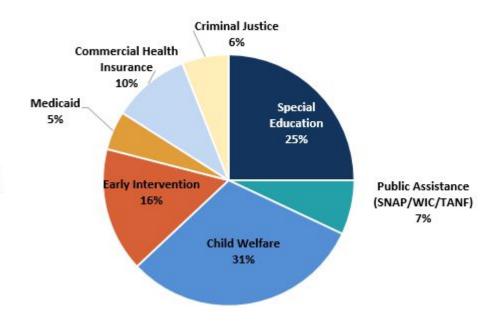
HMG Savings by Sector



HMG Savings by Sector



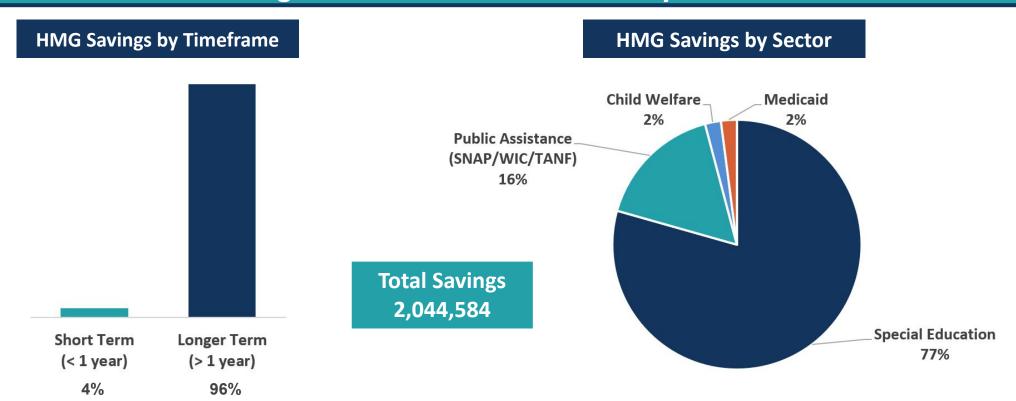
HMG Savings by Sector



Help Me Grow South Carolina

Quantifying HMG's Value: South Carolina

HMG savings accrue over time to a variety of sectors.



For every \$1 invested, Help Me Grow generates more than \$3 in *quantifiable* savings over the longer term.

HMG ROI Promotional Example from HMG South Carolina



A Solution to Help Young Children Succeed

For every \$1 invested, Help Me Grow SC generates an average of \$3 in quantifiable savings to South Carolina.

The Problem

All children benefit from an organized system of resources to help them thrive, like health care, quality early learning experiences, and parent support. However, when the system is not well organized, it can be difficult for families to access the resources they need.

Since 90% of brain development occurs by age 5, having a strong foundation in early childhood is critical for succeeding as an adult.

The Solution

Help Me Grow SC makes it easy for families to plug into community resources when the need arises by:

- Operating a centralized, toll-free access point staffed by child development specialists
- Supporting families as they seek services
- Providing free, online developmental health screenings
- Maintaining South Carolina's only comprehensive early childhood resource database

Total Annual Average Savings*

\$2,044,584

Help Me Grow SC reduces state spending to special education by

\$1.5 million

"Savings accross in the short- and long-term across a variety of state sectors, including special education, public assistance, child welfers, Nedicald, early intervention, and criminal justice.

When South Carolina children and families are supported and connected, our state prospers.



Help Me Grow Oregon

Oregon ROI Experience

Data Fidelity

- Weekly data team meetings
- Why?
 - Quality Assurance
 - Granularity
 - TA from HMG National

Overall Experience

- Learning moments/challenges
- Successes/Sparks



Leveraging the ROI

Funders and Stakeholders

- HMG Oregon Advisory Committee
 - Conversation starter
- HMG Incubator Grant
 - Application support
 - Future grant opportunities





Utilizing the ROI Tools

- Easy to complete and Manatt is super helpful
- Created a list of data points needed for our state
- Focus on the long term savings
- Highlight Diversion and Early **Detection** as our two main cost savings
- Don't often go into specifics or details

Return on Investment Spotlight: Oakland County





State Level Uses

- Impressive talking point for State Leaders - both that we have a HMG specific ROI calculator and the savings number
- Powerful asset when securing philanthropic and public investment
- Part of our "pitch" when talking to interested communities





Philanthropic Funding

- Utilized Oakland and Ottawa's ROI as part of our grant applications to secure 2 million in funding over 3 years
- Both Ralph C. Wilson and Kellogg were impressed and want to see more affiliates use the ROI
- Completing more ROI calculators is part of our grant goals





Legislative Recommendation

A Preventive, Upstream Investment

Michigan invests in so many crucial programs for young children; Help Me Grow ensures families are aware of and can easily access these resources. Our Care Coordinators play a vital role in this effort. Moreover, Help Me Grow's care coordination serves as a preventive, upstream investment. When combined with other early childhood services, it yields significant returns, with an estimated \$15 return for every \$1 invested. Connecting families to services early helps address developmental and behavioral concerns before they escalate, reducing long-term healthcare, education, and social service costs.

ROI Spotlight: Oakland County

- Included ROI info on our 2-pager for Legislators
- Well received data in our convos with legislators
- Combine economic benefits with family stories to humanize data



Help Me Grow brings communities together to ensure every child gets the best start in life, with Care Coordinators helping families access the support they need when they need it. Here's how it works:

Connecting Families to Resources

We connect families to all the early childhood resources available in their community, making it easy for them to get the support they need.

Staying in Touch

We don't just stop after connecting families with resources; we follow up to make sure everything's going smoothly and adjust support as needed.

Identifying Delays Early

We provide free developmental screenings for children 0-5 to track milestones, catch delays early. and connect families to support right away.

Putting Families First

Parents and caregivers know their children best, so we work with them to set goals and make plans for their kids' well-being.

Help Me Grow

Pilot Help Me Grow Non-Help Me Grow

By leveraging existing resources and collaborating, Help Me Grow helps communities build a brighter future for all children.

Our Vision for Help Me Grow Michigan

In Michigan, Help Me Grow has strong support from local communities, offering care coordination services in 63 counties statewide. MDE currently funds a pilot supporting care coordination in 37 counties (identified by dark blue on the map), but this funding is set to expire in 2026. To sustain, strengthen, and expand these critical services, additional funding is essential.

Help Me Grow's care coordination goes beyond mere online tools or automated processes; it involves real-life individuals who engage directly with families. These Care Coordinators help families navigate the complexities of the early childhood system, provide information, answer questions, follow up on developmental screens, and ensure families remain connected to essential services. It's a holistic approach to early childhood development.

The need is clear: every family in Michigan with young children should have access to a dedicated, high quality care coordinator to provide ongoing guidance and support.

"It's nice to know that if I need something or have any questions that I can call this number and someone will actually help me and call me back." - Dayna, Livingston

> "You are the one person I know who will always call me back. Thank you so much!" - Ka, Ingham

Help Me Grow's Impact Last Year:

23,743 Families served by Care Coordinators

45,651

Developmental screenings completed by Help Me Grow & its partners

of Families said their needs were met by Help Me Grow

A Preventive, Upstream Investment

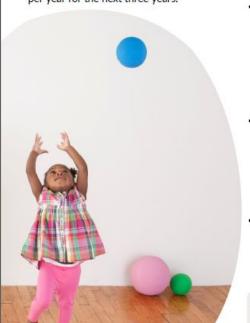
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ROI Spotlight: Oakland County

The latest Needs Assessment shows that Michigan families would benefit from a more connected early childhood system that makes it easier for them to find and access the services they need. Recognizing Michigan's value for local control, we tailor our efforts to meet the unique needs of each community. Through targeted outreach and empowering local initiatives, we ensure effective responses to family needs. Through our state office, we coordinate efforts, ensure consistency in care coordination statewide, and collect real-time data on service gaps and barriers, ultimately enhancing support for families across the state.

Investment Recommendation

To strengthen systems and support families statewide, we're seeking a total investment of \$2.6 million per year for the next three years:



- Care Coordination Expansion: \$1 million to strengthen and expand care coordination services, laying the groundwork for eventual statewide coverage. This funding will provide a 50% match for local care coordinators, ensuring ensuring families have access to dedicated professionals to guide them.
- Statewide Outreach & Support: \$1 million to enhance awareness and provide essential support, including \$600,000 for community outreach to inform families about resources, \$200,000 for technical assistance to help affiliates achieve fidelity, and \$200,000 for professional learning.
- Project Management & Evaluation: \$200,000 to facilitate project management, \$200,000 to evaluate the effectiveness of state investments in Help Me Grow, and \$200,000 for administrative and overhead expenses.

To learn more, contact Courtney Gupta at cgupta@ccresa.org



Help Me Grow Oakland & Ottawa

- Practical tool for conversations with county leaders, funders, and systems partners
- Translate abstract benefits
 of EC investment into
 concrete financial and
 social concerns

- Local funding diversification
- Strengthened early literacy & family engagement initiatives
- Elevated HMG's value proposition within broader county planning efforts



Help Me Grow Oakland & Ottawa

Impactful tool for early childhood services:

- Highlights understandable dollar savings
- Shows that funds are not just spent, but invested wisely
- Strengthens the case for sustained and expanded funding in our grant applications
- Shows the impact of our community working together

For every \$1 invested, Help Me **Grow-Ottawa** generates more than \$29 in quantifiable savings over the longer term.

Total Net Savings: \$3,665,555









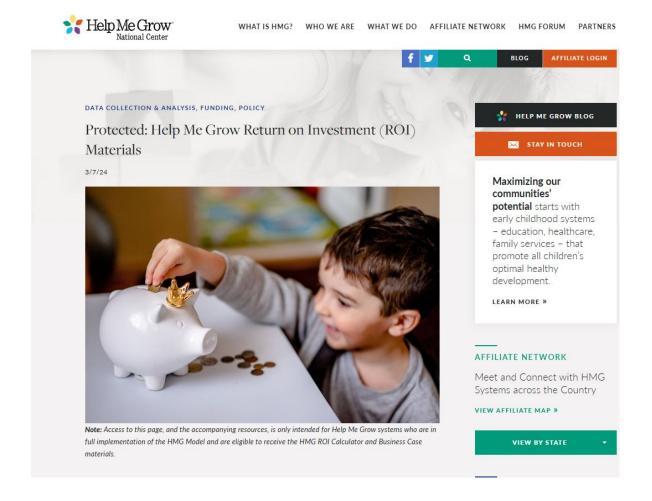
Demonstrating Collective Impact through ROI

- Oakland & Ottawa Show the Power of Early Investment
- **Data Drives Decisions & Partnerships**
- ROI Supports Sustainability & Expansion
- Together, We Make the Case for Continued Investment

Together, Oakland and Ottawa demonstrate how Help Me Grow's proven return on investment translates early childhood support into measurable savings and stronger communities. By showing that every dollar invested generates significant cross-sector savings this data strengthens our case to funders, policymakers, and partners. ROI not only justifies continued investment but also ensures the long-term sustainability and expansion of services that help children thrive and communities prosper.

HMG Affiliate ROI Resource Hub

HMG ROI Cohort Resource Hub



Available Resources such as:

- HMG Audience Guide Templates
- HMG ROI Calculator
- Business Case PPT templates
- FAQ Resource
- ROI meeting recordings and slides
- ROI supports & resources

Not a HMG Affiliate?

Reach out to HMG National!

HMG National Center:

hmgnational@connecticutchildrens.org



Questions?

Forthcoming Opportunities & TA

HMG Forum 2025: ROI Session

Cross Sites 2025 Meeting:
 Presentation featuring HMG-Oregon

2025 ROI Cohort – Summer 2025



