



The expansion of *Help Me Grow* in Minnesota will promote the healthy development of every child, prenatal through third grade. *Help Me Grow* will establish a comprehensive statewide system of early identification, referral and follow-up for children with developmental, social-emotional and/or other related concerns. Approximately 630,000 children eight years old and younger and 68,000 pregnant women could benefit from this expansion.

Minnesota's existing Help Me Grow system

Our existing *Help Me Grow* system is dedicated to referring young children with developmental and emotional concerns to early childhood special education services. It does not provide assistance to families who may benefit from other services. As a result, too many families face the complex and often expensive prospect of navigating the early childhood system on their own, leading to preventable inefficiencies and service gaps.

Why expand our existing system?

Many services and resources that support healthy child development already exist in communities across Minnesota, but families often don't know about, or have trouble connecting to the services they need. *Help Me Grow* will support families, child health care providers, early care and education providers, human service providers, community leaders and elders by providing a "no wrong door" approach to accessing services.

How will Help Me Grow work?

Help Me Grow will help improve educational and health outcomes by effectively connecting high needs children and their families to existing services, while identifying gaps where additional services are needed. This comprehensive system will include:

- A centralized access point that links families with young children to resources and services that address concerns about a child's health, development, and learning;
- Child health care and education provider trainings to educate community partners about the importance of early detection and intervention;
- Community outreach to build awareness and promote the use of *Help Me Grow*; and
- A data system to evaluate the *Help Me Grow* system and guide quality improvement.

Help Me Grow will:

- Connect more children to a broader array of comprehensive services, including culturally appropriate and tribal resources.
- Empower families to make smart choices about services their children receive.
- Provide short term coordination of services to meet the needs of our most at risk children.
- More efficiently connect young children and their families to services and supports.
- Reduce the need for expensive special education and medical services.
- Increase collaboration across service sectors at the state, county and local levels.
- Increase developmental and social emotional screening and referral to community-based services by healthcare providers.
- Reduce risk of child maltreatment by enhancing protective factors for families.
- Provide data to inform funding & policy decisions and quality improvement.

Partners:



Child Care Aware of Minnesota
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Hospital and Clinics of Minnesota
Family Voices of Minnesota
Fraser
Generation Next
Initiative Foundation
Local Public Health Association
Minnesota Association of Family Physicians
Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of
Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Minnesota Communities Caring for Children
Minnesota Head Start Association, Inc.
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
Minnesota Tribal Resources for Early Childhood Care
Northland Foundation
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
Pacer Center
Reach Out and Read of Minnesota
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
Southwest Initiative Foundation
Think Small
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Voices and Choices Coalition
West Central Initiative Foundation
Wilder Research