HMG National envisions a future in which all states have comprehensive *Help Me Grow* systems in place so that:

- **Families have knowledge of and easy access to a statewide system** that supports them in learning about their children's developmental needs and connecting them to appropriate services
- **Child health care, early care and education, and human service providers have the knowledge, skills, and resources to identify children at risk** for developmental and behavioral problems and can partner effectively with families to promote children's healthy development
- **Public officials and other key stakeholders understand the gaps in available supports and services** and know how best to ensure adequate capacity to meet the needs of children and families

HMG National provides technical assistance in the building, sustaining, and continuous improvement of *Help Me Grow* systems, and is a recognized leader in the promotion of optimal child development.

Together, we can create a future of better outcomes for at-risk children

Help Me Grow National Center

HelpMeGrowNational.org

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THE *Help Me Grow* SYSTEM

Too many children are not getting the help they need

Experts agree: Early detection and connection to services lead to the best outcomes for children with developmental or behavioral concerns.

However, families, child health care, early care and education, and human service providers often have difficulty recognizing early signs of developmental or behavioral challenges.

Even when needs are identified, finding programs designed to address those needs can be confusing and time-consuming.

Help Me Grow is a simple solution that builds on existing resources

***Help Me Grow* (*HMG*) is an efficient and effective system** – with a proven track record – that assists states in identifying at-risk children, then helping families find community-based programs and services.

HMG does not provide direct services. Rather, **it is a system for improving access to existing resources and services for children through age eight.**

States affiliated with the *Help Me Grow* National Center use the *HMG* system to implement **effective, universal, early surveillance and screening for all children**, and then **link them to existing quality programs.**

*One of the most attractive characteristics of **Help Me Grow** is that it is elegant in its simplicity.*

– Dr. Paul Dworkin, Director
Help Me Grow National Center
Connecticut Children's Medical Center

How the *Help Me Grow* system works

The success of *HMG* is built on four core components and three structural requirements. The system begins with **comprehensive physician and community outreach,** including child health care, early care and education, and family support providers.

This collaboration across sectors, including **centralized information and referral centers,** links families with needed programs and services. **Ongoing data collection** helps identify gaps in and barriers to the system.

The structural requirements described below provide **the foundation for building and managing an effective *HMG* system over time.**

Four Core Components:

1. child health care provider outreach
2. community outreach
3. centralized telephone access point
4. data collection and analysis

Three Structural Requirements:

1. An **organizing entity**
2. A strategy for **expanding statewide** over time
3. The implementation of a **continuous quality improvement** plan

***Help Me Grow** is a system that allows me to do my job as a pediatrician caring for families better, more simply, and fairly quickly.*

– Cliff O'Callahan, MD, Pediatric Faculty and Director of Nuerseries, Middlesex Hospital

*I think that **Help Me Grow** is one of the best systems I have seen in the past 20 years and know that it will continue to impact our ability to reach families that need so much help.*

– Liz Petersen, Director
Kids Who Count, Utah

The Next Step:

Building *Help Me Grow* systems nationwide

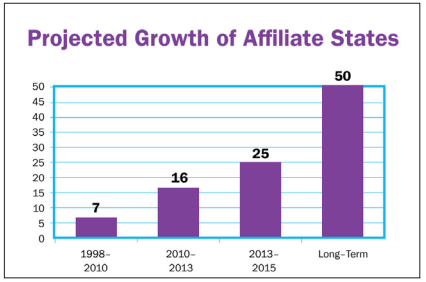
Help Me Grow Connecticut, the first *Help Me Grow* system in the nation, was launched in Hartford in 1998 and began operating as a state-wide system in 2002. With support from Connecticut, in 2005, Orange County, California, became the first site to replicate the *HMG* system.

In 2008, The Commonwealth Fund supported *Help Me Grow* replication in five additional states. In 2010, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation provided funding for growth and expansion to 16 total states, as well as the creation of the *Help Me Grow* National Center.

HMG National is now poised to fulfill the long-term vision of *Help Me Grow* systems in all 50 states.

HMG National supports affiliate states by:

- Promoting development and expansion of a national network of states that are building *HMG* systems
- Providing technical assistance to help states implement HMG's core components and structural requirements
- Informing the public discourse on the crucial importance of optimal child development

Affiliate States as of 2011

Alabama
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
Iowa
Kentucky
Massachusetts
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