

HELP ME GROW VERMONT SYSTEM

Advancing Developmental Promotion, Early Identification and Linkage to Services

What is it?

Help Me Grow Vermont (HMG VT) is a statewide system for improving access to existing resources and services for pre-natal parents and families with young children through age 8. HMG VT addresses families' concerns and questions about their child's behavior, development, and learning and connects them to community resources. By strengthening protective factors in families, HMG VT supports parents and caregivers to better understand and promote their child's social and emotional well-being. It encourages children's readiness to learn and succeed in school. HMG VT builds an efficient, co-ordinated, region-wide system by supporting collaboration between health professionals, early care and education professionals, human services providers, and families to better identify and address the needs of children in Vermont.

"[HMG will become] the glue for community and stakeholder relationships; it will help people see themselves as part of a larger early childhood system that has many different interconnections."

Julie Cadwallader Staub

Vermont Grant Director, Early Learning Challenge-Race to the Top

What will it do?

Family & Community Outreach

to promote *Help Me Grow Vermont* and bolster healthy child development through families

Child Health Provider Outreach

to support developmental promotion, early detection, and intervention

Data Collection & Analysis

to understand all aspects of the *Help Me Grow Vermont* system, including gaps and barriers

Centralized Phone Access Point

to connect children and their families to services and care coordination

Why Does it Matter?

Early detection of developmental and behavioral concerns is critical for the success of all children, but too often children slip through the cracks and don't receive the services they need at an early age when the benefit of those services is greatest. Many initiatives in Vermont provide services to young children, but families, child health providers, and early educators don't always know these programs exist, or how to connect with them. *HMG VT* addresses this by:

- providing a centralized access point for information and referral and linkage to services
- promoting parent engaged developmental monitoring and screening for all children
- training providers on use of the Universal Developmental Screening Registry
- building collaboration among community programs and providers
- educating and informing the community

As a result , families and communities have the information and resources they need to help all children succeed.

For more information about *Help Me Grow Vermont* visit www.helpmegrowvt.org



Help me Grow Vermont is a project of Vermont's Early Learning Challenge grant. For more information visit buildingbrightfutures.org/early-learning-challenge
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Help Me Grow Vermont Core Components

Family & Community Outreach

to promote *Help Me Grow Vermont* and bolster healthy child development through families

As the convener of community partners who share knowledge of resources and gaps in services, the **Building Bright Futures Regional Councils** play a crucial system role through outreach and networking efforts:

- Assist the centralized access point to create a living, real-time statewide resource directory
- Engage families in key community meetings, forums, fairs, and events that help families learn about child development and *HMG VT*
- Utilize *HMG VT* data to document needs, gaps and barriers to services, and improve appropriate utilization of community resources

The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP) provides training and coaching to early care and education providers on developmental monitoring, screening and linkage.

Child Health Provider Outreach

to support developmental promotion, early detection, and intervention

The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP) conducts training and coaching to both child health providers on developmental monitoring, screening, and linkage:

- 49 primary care practices participate in quality improvement training
- Spread use of the new Universal Developmental Screening (UDS) Registry—a comprehensive, statewide screening data collection and communication system
- Work with pediatricians at the University of Vermont Medical Center and Pediatric New American Clinic on mitigating the impact of toxic stress

Data Collection & Analysis

to understand all aspects of the *Help Me Grow Vermont* system, including gaps and barriers

Data collection and analysis are provided by **The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP)** together with the **Universal Developmental Screening (UDS) Registry** — a statewide data collection system for developmental screening results. Data is collected on all aspects of the *HMG VT* system to:

- Identify gaps and barriers
- Promote continuous quality improvement across all components of the *HMG VT* system
- Provide comprehensive reporting linked to outcomes, outputs and service activities
- Assess both families' and stakeholders' perceptions of and experiences with *HMG VT* via qualitative studies

Research shows that referrals to *HMG* and subsequent linkages to community based programs and resources enhance protective factors.

Centralized Access Point

to connect children and their families to services and care coordination

The *HMG VT* contact center at Vermont 2-1-1 is the go-to place for families, child health care providers, and other professionals seeking information, support and referrals for prenatal parents and families with children through age 8. Trained ***HMG* Child Development Specialists**:

- Answer parent and caregivers' questions about their children's development and behavior
- Connect families to developmental resources and services in their communities — like Children's Integrated Services
- Provide families with tools to track developmental milestones
- Offer care coordination among multiple service delivery systems
- Maintain a comprehensive, easily searchable, up-to-date resource database
- Provide interpretation services along with translated materials