

Building Partnerships. Supporting Families. Strengthening Communities.



11

physician champions across the state who advocated for HMG



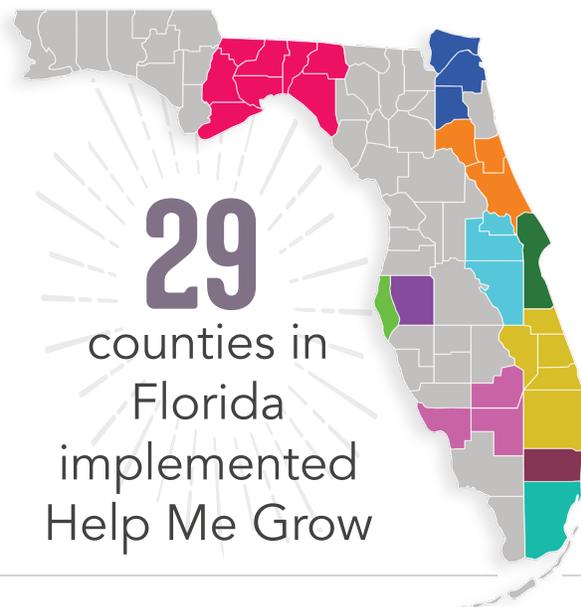
240+

partnerships formed with health care providers and 103+ partnerships with community agencies

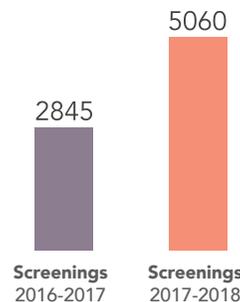
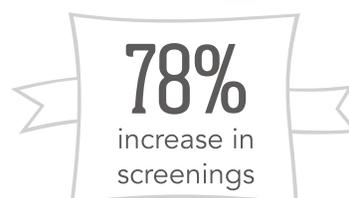
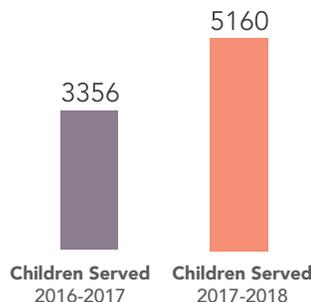
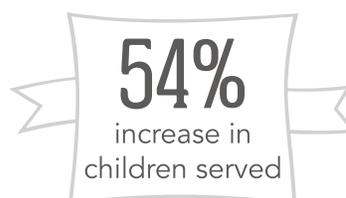
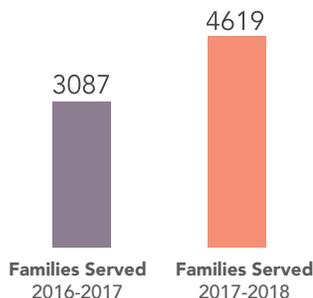


2,251

events and fairs where HMG reached families, communities, agencies and health care providers



COMPARED TO LAST YEAR...



✓ **49%** of the children served were outside of the early care or education setting

✓ **Over 77%** of children were connected to at least one service

✓ **52%** of screenings completed resulted in a concern or need for monitoring

✓ **\$3.4 million** in cost savings to the State of Florida through HMG services

81% of HMG children received services before entering kindergarten



Help Me Grow® Florida is a comprehensive and integrated system designed to promote the healthy development and well-being of all Florida's children age birth to eight, identify developmental and/or behavioral concerns, link families to community-based services and supports, and build collective impact amongst local communities. The services that children are able to access through *Help Me Grow's* early detection and intervention not only improves the chances of a child developing to their full potential, but accrues economic gains for the State of Florida.

The Impact of Increased Funding -

A 2012 policy brief released by the Help Me Grow National Center and Yale University estimated that *Help Me Grow* saves up to \$2,300 per child through the elimination or reduction of specialist consultations and diagnostic testing costs.

- Increased funding would allow expansion into additional counties and create the capacity to serve 69% more children per year.
- The 4,000+ families currently provided care coordination would continue to receive these services.
- Help Me Grow* care coordination is estimated to cut the long-term cost of early detection and intervention services by up to 46%, thus reducing dependence on State resources.
- Help Me Grow's* ability to screen out children who do not need costly additional services directly reduces Medicaid costs. (72% of children screened by *Help Me Grow* are on Medicaid)
- \$26 million could be saved in state resources over the next three years if **all** of Florida's counties had access to *Help Me Grow*.

Identifying issues early in life prevents expensive interventions in the future, prioritizes limited state resources, and enhances self-reliance.

The Need - Nationally, approximately one in six or about 13% of children have one or more developmental disabilities and fewer than 30% of children with developmental delays are identified before starting kindergarten, by which time opportunities for intervention may have been missed.

- 52% of the 5,060 developmental and behavioral screenings completed by *Help Me Grow* demonstrated concerns or a need for additional monitoring.

ACTION REQUEST:

Support Help Me Grow® Florida funding at \$4.5M to fund current Help Me Grow Affiliates and expand to additional counties to provide comprehensive and coordinated services statewide.

- Nearly half (48%) of all children served by *Help Me Grow* will not need costly additional services due to accurate screening and targeted care coordination services.
- 49% of the children with reported learning environments were not attending a school or early education setting. These children may never attend a structured learning environment and therefore may not have had access to the services they received from *Help Me Grow*.

Help Me Grow continues to focus on serving **all** children, birth to eight, no matter where they learn or play.

Support for Help Me Grow® Florida -

Over 103 individuals and community agencies support, partner and collaborate with *Help Me Grow* including:

- Senator Kathleen Passidomo
- Representative Byron Donalds
- The State of Florida, Office of Early Learning
- Children's Forum
- Vance Aloupis (The Children's Movement of Florida)
- David Lawrence (The Children's Movement of Florida)
- Dr. Peter Gorski
- Ted Granger (United Way of Florida)
- The Children's Trust of Miami
- Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions
- The Children and Youth Cabinet
- Florida Developmental Disabilities Council
- 2-1-1 organizations throughout Florida
- The Association of Early Learning Coalitions
- First 1,000 Days Florida Coalition

Our *Help Me Grow®* Florida network is grateful for the opportunity to serve Florida's children and families and to continue expand our services to the entire state. The Children's Forum in Tallahassee, FL administers the *Help Me Grow®* Florida initiative.

For additional information, contact the Children's Forum at (850) 487-6300 or visit the website at <https://www.helpmegrowfl.org/>.