

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 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 a coordinated, 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 and Education 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.helpmegrowvermont.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 (BBF) State and Regional Councils** connect families and service providers to critical developmental resources and provide opportunities for networking and training. BBF Regional Coordinators:

- promote the use of *HMG VT*
- provide real-time information on regional programs and services to support a robust, up-to-date statewide resource directory at the *HMG VT* contact center
- engage families in key community meetings, forums and fairs and facilitate events that help families learn about child development and the role of *HMG VT*
- utilize *HMG VT* data to document needs, and gaps and barriers to services, and improve appropriate utilization of community resources

Child Health and Education Provider Outreach

to support developmental promotion, early detection, and intervention

The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP), conducts training and on-site coaching to both child health providers and early educators on developmental monitoring, screening, and linkage to *HMG VT*.

- In partnership with **Vermont Birth to Five**, VCHIP has expanded developmental screening training from the health sector to early care and education professionals across the state
- Primary Care Practices receive developmental screening quality improvement training via the Child Health Advances Measured in Practice (CHAMP) Network
- VCHIP provides training on use of the Vermont Department of Health's new Universal Developmental Screening (UDS) Registry—a comprehensive, statewide screening data collection and communication system
- *HMG VT* staff work with pediatricians on mitigating the impact of toxic stress and ways to help families reduce it

Data Collection & Analysis

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

The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP) together with the **Universal Developmental Screening (UDS) Registry** provide data collection and analysis. The UDS Registry provides 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
- promote the importance of early detection and intervention for all children's well-being
- provide comprehensive reporting linked to outcomes, outputs and service activities

HMG VT evaluation includes data and results from qualitative studies to assess both families' and stakeholders' perceptions of and experiences with *the HMG VT* system.

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 call/contact center is the go-to place for families, child health care providers, and other professionals seeking information, support and referrals for children through age 8.

Trained *HMG* Child Development Specialists at Vermont 2-1-1, a program of the **United Ways of Vermont**, connect children and families to developmental resources and services. Interpretation services are offered along with translated *HMG* materials. The *HMG* Child Development Specialists are trained in child development, cultural competency, and trauma-informed care and offer excellent listening, interviewing, empathy, and assessment skills so that they can effectively:

- answer parent and caregivers' questions about their children's development and behavior
- provide families with tools to track developmental milestones
- provide care coordination among multiple service delivery systems
- maintain comprehensive, easily searchable, up-to-date resource database
- connect families to the necessary resources in their communities, including Children's Integrated Services