



An initiative of:



Network Partner 2021 Grant Application

Thank you for your interest in the Help Me Grow South Carolina Network Partner grant opportunity. Please review the following information and instructions prior to completing the application.

HMG Overview

The early years present incredible opportunity to build a strong foundation as the brain rapidly develops during the first five years of life. All children benefit from an organized system of community resources to help them thrive, like health care, quality early learning experiences, healthy nutrition, and parent support. However, when the system is not well organized, it can be difficult for families to access resources for their children and challenging for service providers to connect families to needed supports. This can have long-lasting consequences on children's health and well-being.

Help Me Grow plays a vital role in creating an early childhood system that promotes the healthy development of all children. It advances an understanding of early child development, infant and child health and social-emotional well-being, early learning, and school readiness. It simplifies connections to resources for families.

The Help Me Grow model has four interdependent core components:

Centralized Access Point: assists families and professionals in connecting to the grid of community resources that can help them thrive.

Family and Community Outreach: builds parent and provider understanding of healthy child development and how to plug into programs and services that can support that development.

Child Health Provider Outreach: supports early detection and intervention efforts and connects providers to the grid of community resources to best support families

Data Collection & Analysis: Identifies gaps in service and opportunities for greater collaboration and systems improvement.

These four core components of the Help Me Grow system have been shown to decrease medical costs, build family resilience and protective factors, as well as maximize referral and linkage efficiency by creating a pathway to services through a centralized access point.

HMG in South Carolina

The Help Me Grow national network is an ever-growing, powerful coalition of 30 states invested in building comprehensive early childhood systems that optimally serve all families and children. South Carolina became an affiliate of the national Help Me Grow network in 2008 with system implementation beginning in 2012. The South Carolina affiliate was launched by the Greenville Health System (now Prisma Health) and initially served Greenville and Pickens counties. Between 2012 and 2020, the affiliate expanded operations to an additional 10 counties with a focus on the Upstate and the Lowcountry providing access to 48% of SC families with a child age 5 and younger. During this time, the affiliate's Centralized Access Point team assisted 8,265 families complete developmental and behavioral health screenings, connect to community programs and services to support their families, or learn more about their child's development.

In 2020, Help Me Grow SC took a major step toward statewide expansion with the creation of a State Office within the SC Infant Mental Health Association. The establishment of a HMG State Office is made possible through funding from the Preschool Development Grant awarded to South Carolina in 2019 by the Administration for Children and Families.

Help Me Grow SC Network Partner Opportunity

As the organizational home for the Help Me Grow SC affiliate, the SC Infant Mental Health Association (SCIMHA) is launching a statewide HMG SC network in 2021. Two community applicants will be awarded \$10,000 each

in the first round of funding. The awards will be made on or before March 15, 2021 with project implementation to begin April 1, 2021.

The goal of the award is to build capacity among communities to promote healthy development, increase developmental screening, and provide access to services for young children and their families. Grantees will play a key role in the statewide expansion of the Help Me Grow SC system serving as a community or regional hub.

SCIMHA and Help Me Grow SC recognize that each community is unique and that outreach activities should be tailored to meet the needs of local families. We recognize that cross-sector, collective efforts focusing on a shared purpose yield greater impact.

Therefore, applicants must have the ability and/or interest to:

- Improve universal access to developmental and behavioral health screening.
- Promote early developmental health in partnership with HMG SC
- Establish or enhance and maintain a network of community partners that provides child development services and resources to local families and community members
- Address disparities in accessing services

Benefits of being a Help Me Grow SC Network Partner are:

- Families and service providers have the information, resources and support they need to help young children develop and succeed. This includes basic parenting guidance on general child development.
- Connecting families of young children to the HMG SC Centralized Access Point where care coordinators help families to identify pathways to necessary services. This includes identification of resources for children who do not qualify for state-funded services.
- Leading community efforts to coordinate early identification of children at-risk for developmental and behavioral health problems.
- Contributing to state data collection of barriers families experience when trying to access services and what service gaps exist to adequately meet the needs of children and families.

- Access to workforce development training opportunities to support professionals who work with young children and their families.
- Improved short term and long-term health outcomes for children

Help Me Grow SC Network Partner 2021 Application Guidance

Interested applicants are expected to attend an informational webinar which will be held on Friday, February 5, 2021 from 10-11 am. Please register via the Zoom link below.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvc-iuqDkvGty3rNVitxQcK9PoybnREnTF>

Online applications will open on Monday, February 8, 2021 for those who attended the informational webinar. Applications will close at 5 pm on Friday, February 19, 2021. Awards will be announced on or before March 15, 2021. There is a required orientation call for grantees on March 22, 2021. Time to be determined.

Applicant Eligibility: Any South Carolina community-based, non-profit organization that serves children between birth and age 5 and their families is eligible to apply. At a minimum, applicants should serve a single county with a multi-county service area preferred.

The grantee agrees to:

- Designate a site coordinator who will serve as the partner's main contact with the HMG SC State Office
- Complete training provided by HMG SC State Office
- Partner with other early childhood and family serving organizations in your service area
- Provide documentation of outreach activities to HMG SC State Office
- Participate in regular calls with HMG SC State Office
- Use HMG messaging and branding in outreach activities
- Coordinate and lead community screening events (when possible to do so)
- Be identified as a HMG SC Network Partner on HMG SC website
- Include HMG SC website link on agency's website and/or social media

The Help Me Grow SC State Office agrees to:

- Provide training on the HMG system
- Train grantees on data entry process and how to access the HMG data system
- Provide support/training for community service providers
- Offer technical assistance throughout the project period

Examples of possible technical assistance include routine and topic-based calls, activity planning, marketing and messaging assistance, community resource connections.

Funding: After grantees are selected, they will receive a Memorandum of Understanding to sign. Upon signing the MOU, grantees will receive a check for the full \$10,000 award.

What can the funding be used for?

- Salary support for HMG SC site coordinator
- Outreach materials (must be co-branded with HMG SC and SCIMHA)
- Equipment to support HMG outreach activities (\$1,500 or less)
- Training/Memberships related to outreach work
- Hosting HMG SC community screening event (Read Rattle & Roll)

Funding cannot be used for:

- Travel expenses
- Food

If you have a question that was not addressed here, please send it to the attention of Jane Witowski, Director, HMG SC State Office at helpmegrowsc@scimha.org.

Thank you.