Help Me Grow:
So All Children Can Shine



Help Me Grow®
National Center

Help Me Grow Virtual Open House

Part 1 of 2

October 21, 2026

Help Me Grow National Center

Today's Agenda

- What is Help Me Grow?
- What is the value proposition, evidence, and impact of Help Me Grow?
- What is the Help Me Grow National Center and the HMG Network?
- What does affiliation look like?
- Why does this matter now?
- Next Steps to Connect

A Moment to Connect: Welcome to a New Season

Fall invites us to slow down, get cozy, and embrace transition.

What cozy comfort do you look forward to when the seasons change?



COZY • COMFORT • CHANGE

A warm drink • A favorite blanket • A seasonal ritual

Share one comfort—or add your own in the chat.

A Welcome Message from our Executive Director



What is the Help Me Grow Model?

And why does it matter?

Strong Programs. Fragmented Experience.

Why families can still fall through the cracks.

SYSTEM CONDITIONS
(Upstream)

FRAGMENTED SECTORS
Programs and providers operate in silos.

POLICY MISALIGNMENT
Lack of alignment across policies and priorities.

SHORT-TERM FUNDING
Unstable, time-limited funding limits long-term solutions.

WORKFORCE SHORTAGES
Not enough trained staff to meet the needs of families.

SILOED DATA & SYSTEMS
Limited data sharing leads to incomplete information.

LIMITED SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY
No common measures or collective oversight.

THE FAMILY JOURNEY
(Experienced by Families)



IMPACTS ON FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES
(Downstream)

WORSE HEALTH OUTCOMES
Delayed identification and support can lead to poorer physical and mental health.

DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS
Late or no support increases the risk of developmental challenges.

LOWER FAMILY WELL-BEING
Increased stress, time, and financial strain on families.

CONTINUED INEQUITY
Gaps in access widen disparities and limit potential for children and communities.

These challenges are not caused by families.
They are system conditions we can change—together.

When systems work *together*, families get the support they need, children *thrive*, and communities become healthier and more equitable.

Help Me Grow is an early childhood system-building model.

So what does that mean?









Help Me Grow's Universal Goal

Every child has access to the resources needed to live in good health and well-being.



The Help Me Grow Model

Communities intentionally steward *one* connected early childhood system.

OUR NORTH STAR
The outcome we are all working together to achieve.

ONE SHARED GOAL
Every child and every family can *thrive.*

THE CONDITIONS THAT MAKE IT POSSIBLE
Communities intentionally steward these foundational conditions.

STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS
- Shared Ownership
- Spread & Scale
- Continuous Learning

THE ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES
These core components drive how the system works together.

CORE COMPONENTS
- Family & Community Outreach
- Child Health Engagement
- Coordinated Access Point
- Data Collection & Analysis

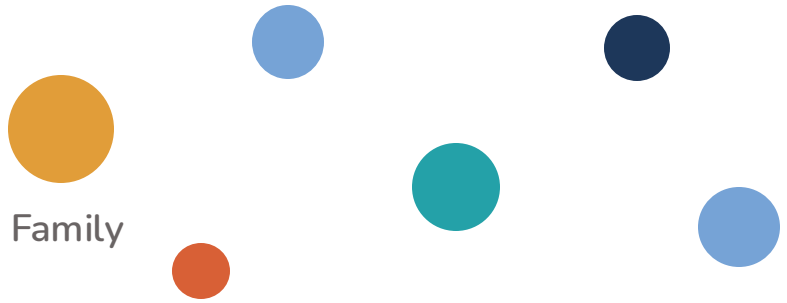
THE RESULT FOR FAMILIES
Families experience a seamless, supportive journey.

CONNECTED FAMILY JOURNEY
Families experience *one* connected early childhood system—
easier to navigate, more supportive, and designed around their needs.

STRONGER OUTCOMES
for children, families, and communities.

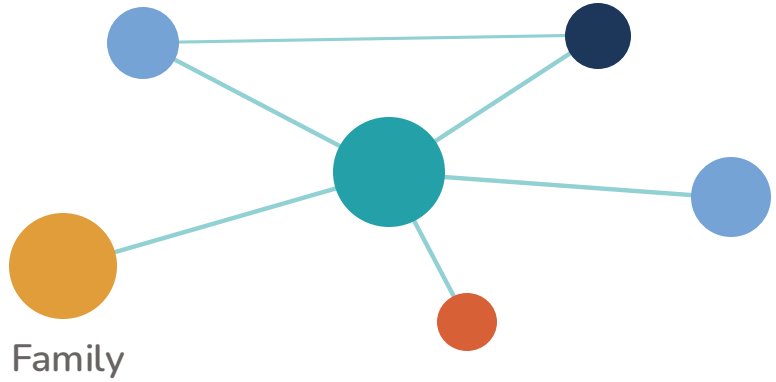
What changes for families and communities when this works?

FRAGMENTED CARE



coordination

COORDINATED CARE



- Low trust & system reliability
- Limited family engagement

Families navigate separate services

- Communication, trust & reliability
- Improved family experience

Families experience one reliable system

HMG Sets the “What”; Communities Shape the “How”

A shared Model creates consistency without prescribing a single local playbook.

CONSISTENCY

WHAT

HMG defines what communities ensure is in place.

A consistent foundation—**without prescribing** one way to implement it.

LOCAL CONTEXT

HOW

Communities decide how the Model comes to life locally.

BUILDS FROM

Assets + infrastructure

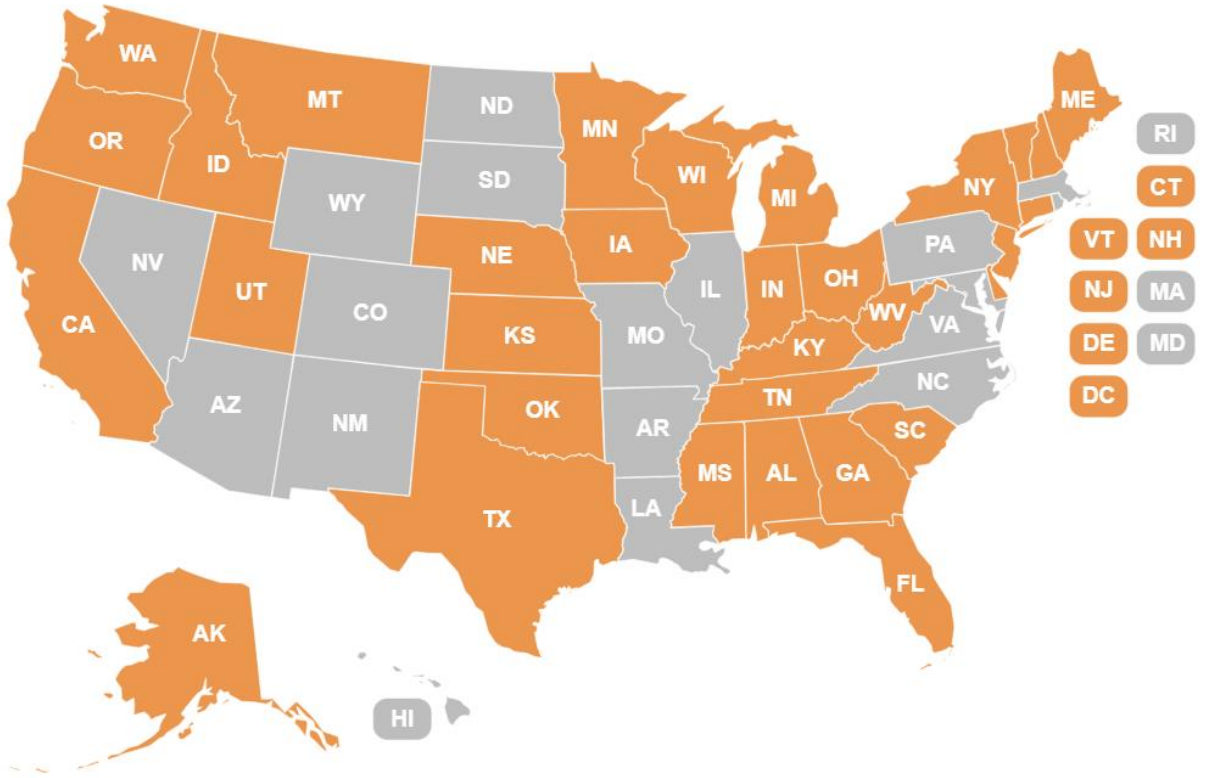
Partnerships + technology

Community strengths

One shared foundation. Many locally designed paths.

What Does Implementation Look Like? There are 140+ Examples!

- Statewide versus local
- Variety of organizing entity types
- Leverage/align local efforts, build out towards local needs



Map created at www.fla-shop.com

"When you've seen one Help Me Grow, you've seen ONE Help Me Grow!"

The Value Proposition of Help Me Grow

The Full Value of Help Me Grow

Connected support for families. A stronger system behind it.

Families experience...

A trusted path to help

Through familiar community entry points

Developmental guidance for all families

Additional support when needed

Support that follows through

Help addressing barriers to successful connection

Providers gain...

Stronger developmental support

Guidance to monitor development and recognize concerns

Reliable referrals and feedback

Knowing whether families successfully connected

More capacity to focus on their expertise

Partners help address needs beyond their scope

Communities build...

Shared responsibility for system performance

Clear leadership and accountability for making the system work

Existing resources working better together

Aligned services and investments, with less duplication

Improvement that lasts

Shared data and sustainable infrastructure strengthen support

Less burden on families. Greater shared responsibility for children's well-being.

HMG Evidence and Impact

Our Data Approach & Measurement Goals

Measuring Implementation of the Model (Part 1)

- Fidelity to the HMG Model
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
- Identifying Systemic Strengths, Gaps, and Barriers
- Flexible Standards of Practice

Measuring Impact (Part 2)

- Outcomes that advance family-centered care
- Balancing local evaluation with national movement building
  - Local data collection & evaluation to illustrate direct impact to children and families
  - National benchmarks to illustrate collective impact

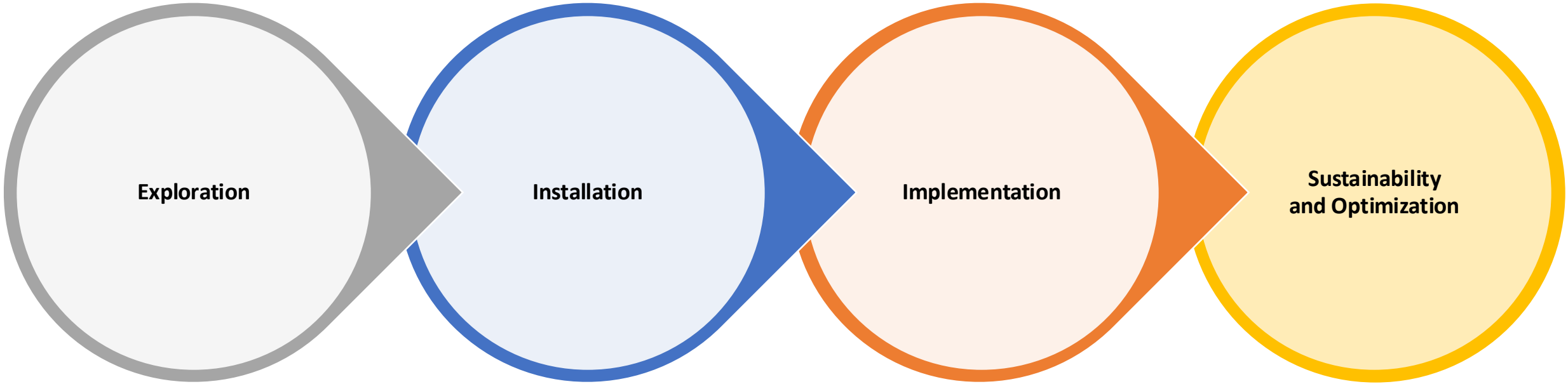
IMPORTANT: Local HMG System Data: Data submitted to HMG National just a subset of data that can be leveraged for change

Help Me Grow®

Using data to dynamically improve early childhood systems and ensuring children and families have timely access to resources and services they want and need.

HMG is Grounded in Implementation Science

Implementation Science (IS) aims to "accelerate the adoption and integration of evidence-based practices, interventions, and policies into routine healthcare and public health practice to improve the impact on population health" (National Cancer Institute, 2020)



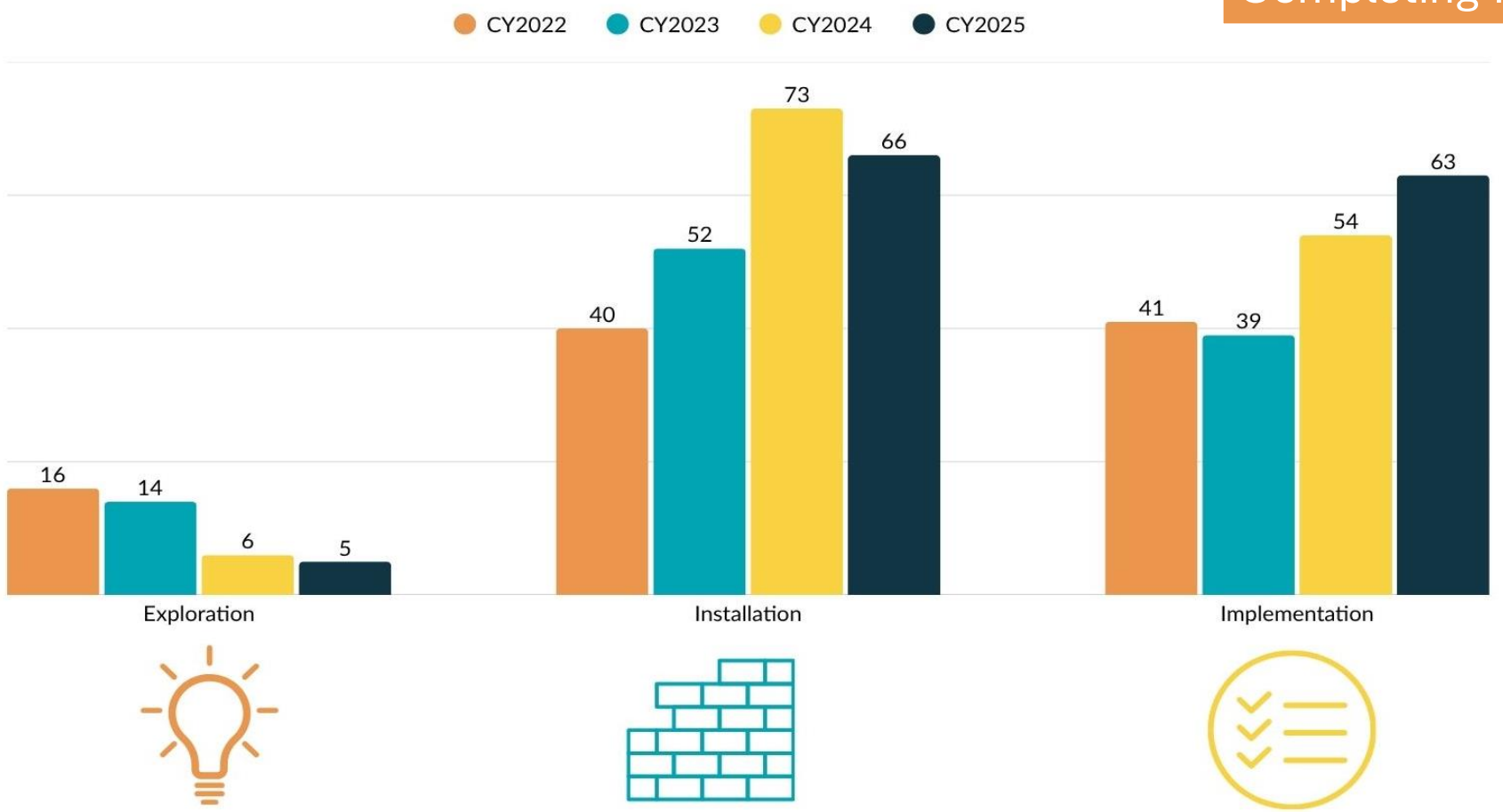
- Identifying the need for change
- Developing stakeholders and champions
- Assessing and creating readiness for change
- Learning about interventions that may provide solutions

- Full Fidelity to the Model, Sustainability

HMG Network: Overall Implementation Status

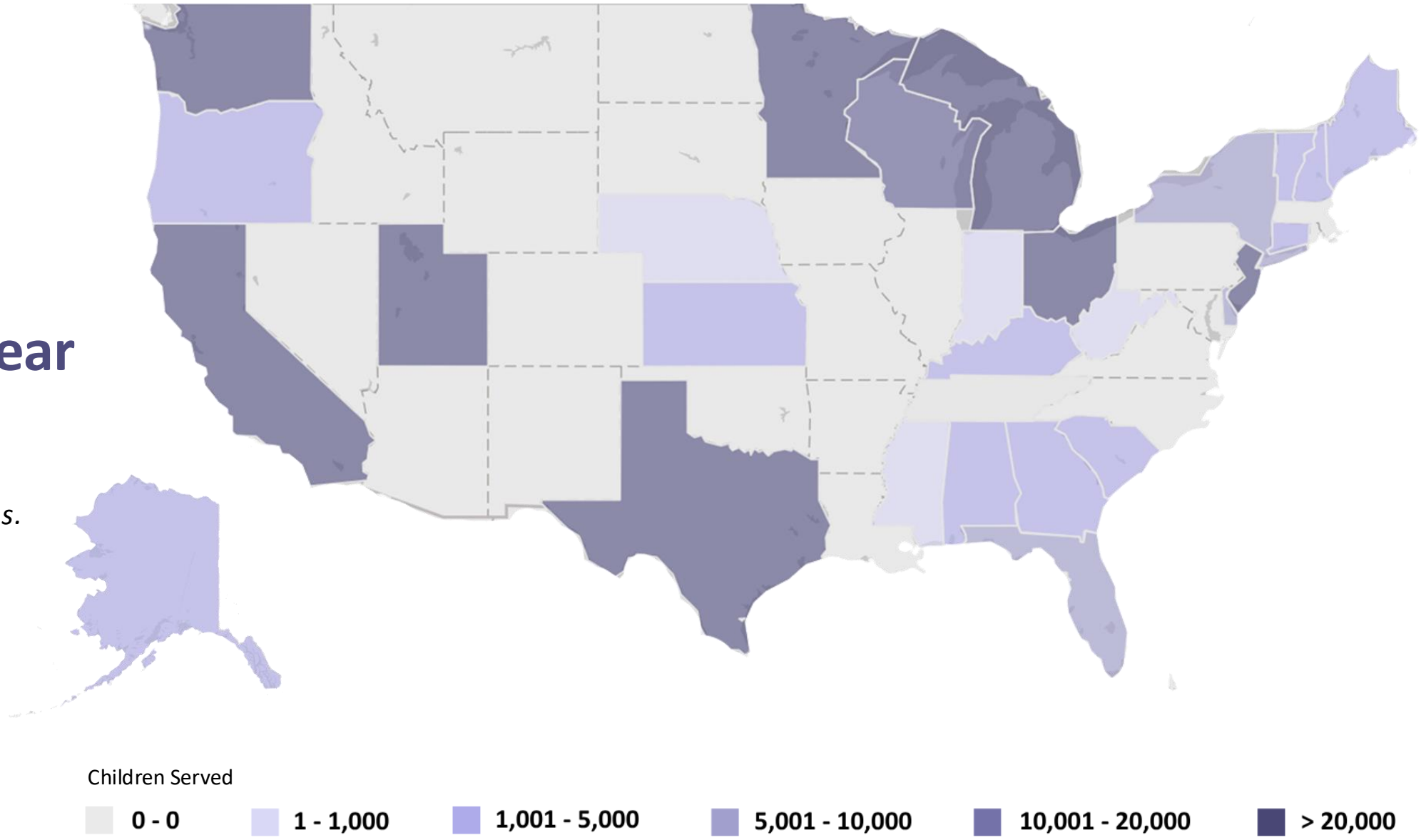
2022-2025 (# of systems)

n = 134 Systems Completing Tool

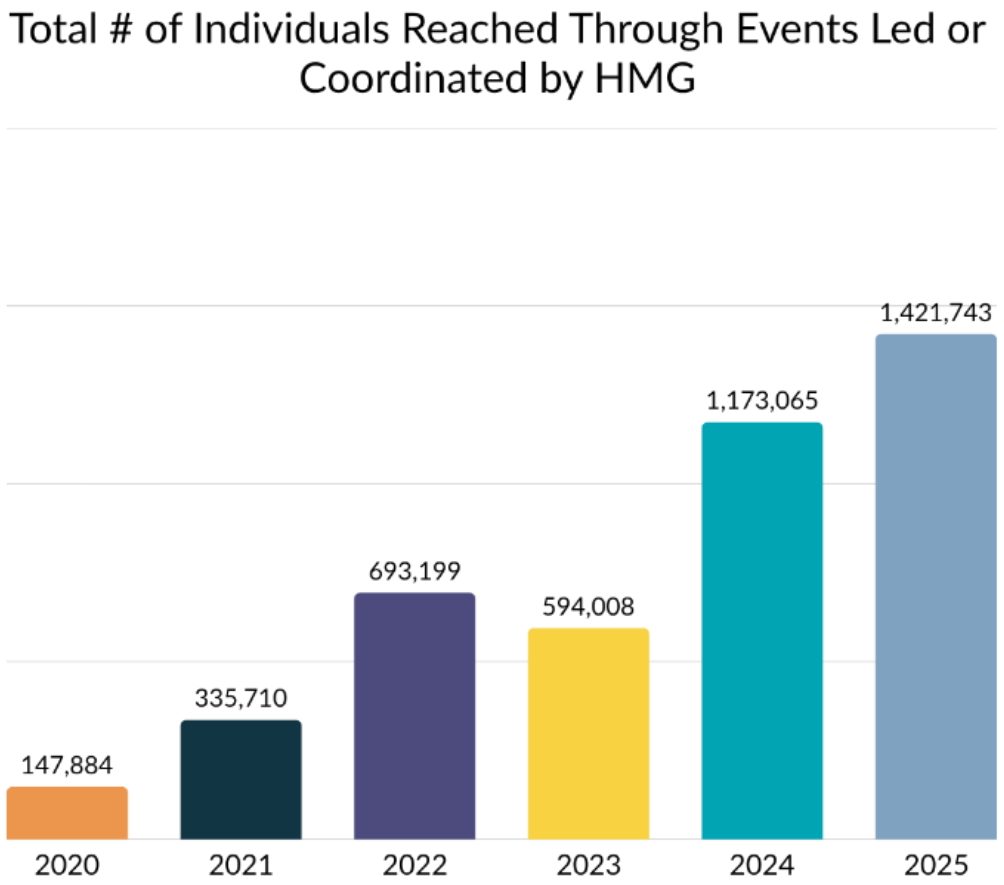


439,197* Children Served by HMG in Calendar Year 2025

**Based on 135 systems.*



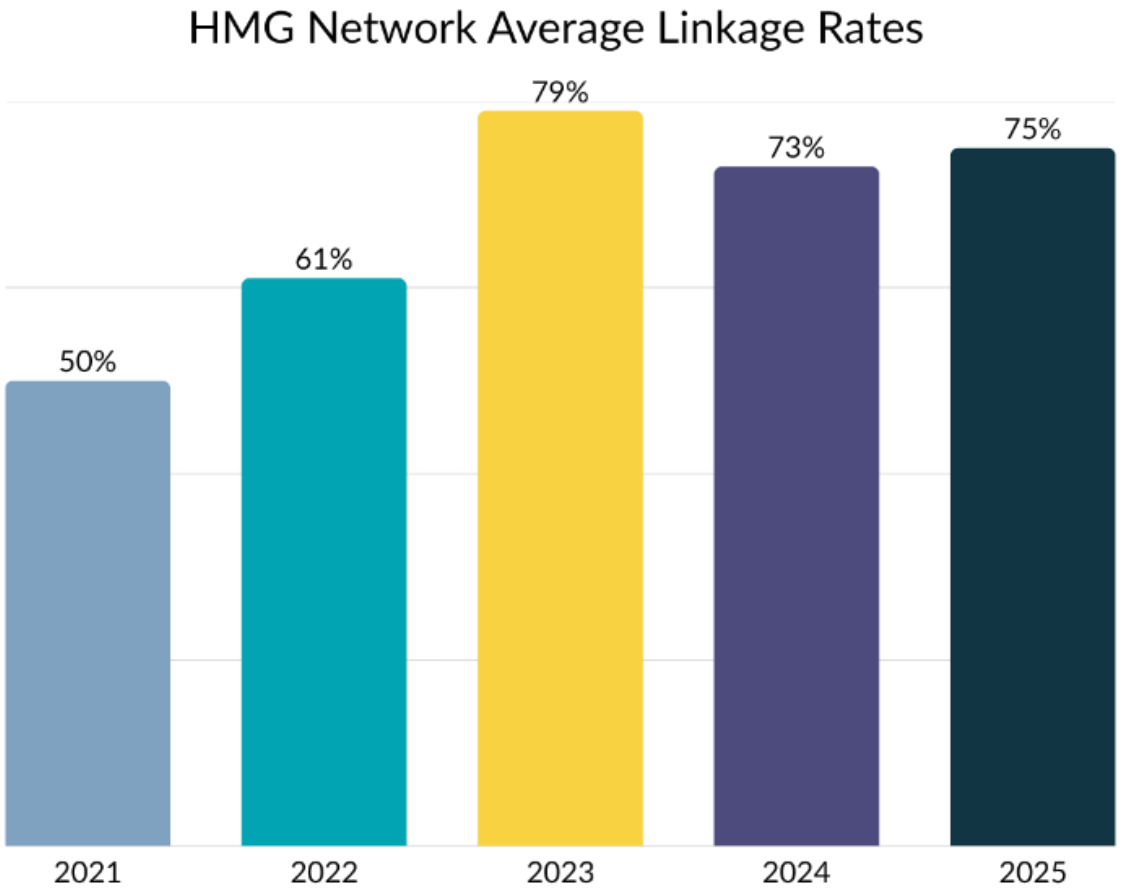
What is HMG's Footprint



Family and Community Outreach Efforts

The number of individuals reached through HMG-led events has seen significant advancement not only in sheer number reached but in strategies and efforts to connect with families in person, virtually, and through social media. In the last year, HMG systems have reported **serving 1.4 million individuals** at HMG-led or coordinated events in the community.

What is HMG's Unique Value Proposition



Average Linkage Rate

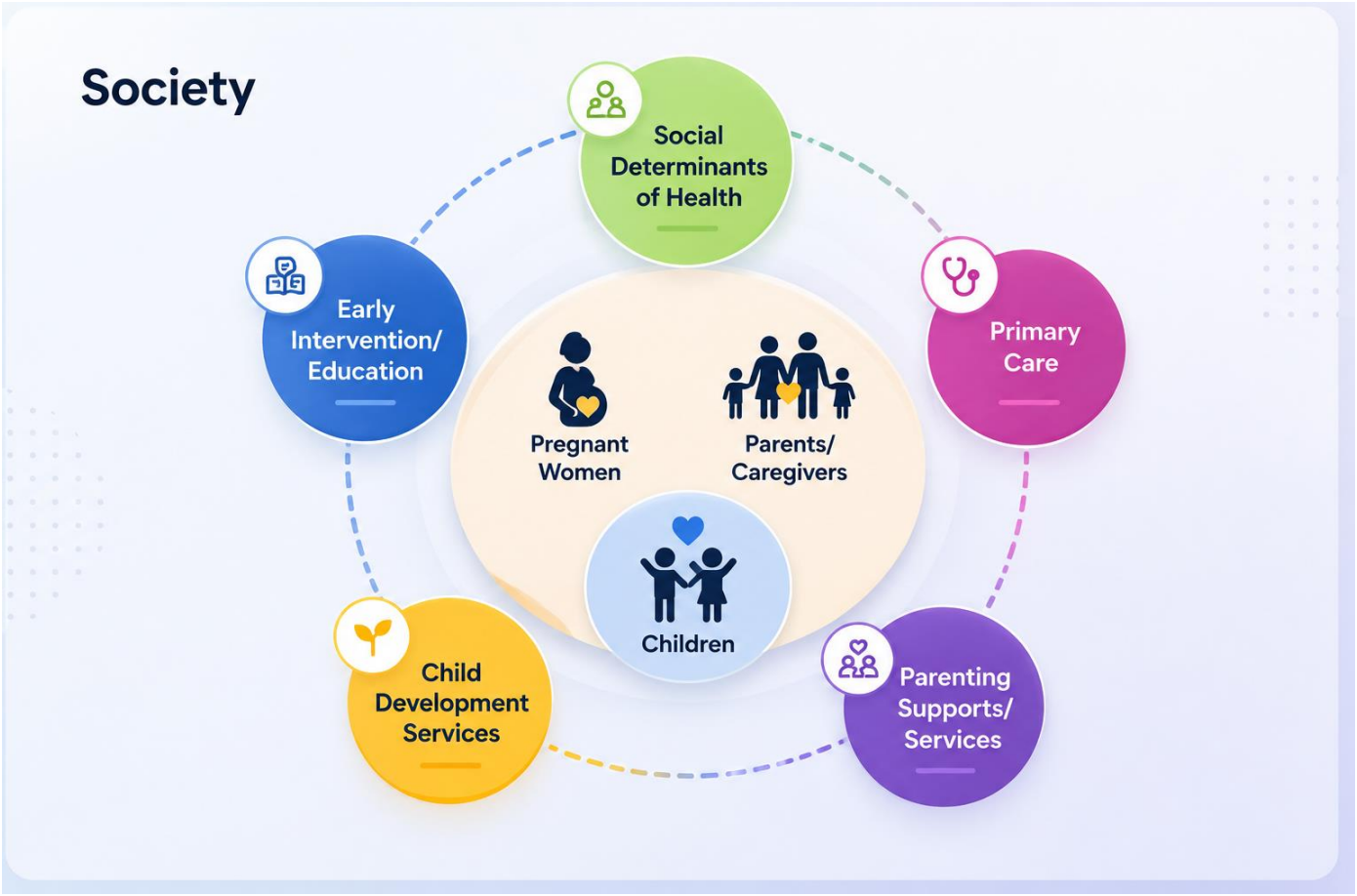
Linkage is a unique value proposition of the HMG Model and ensures that families are successfully connected to services that are available in their community and meet their specific needs. **In 2025, the average linkage rate for HMG systems able to report on this percentage was 75%.**


Helps in understanding the HMG Model's impact currently and over time
Can be used to help support growth, along with future technical assistance and collaboration opportunities
Can be used for quality improvement and community change at the system, local, state and national-level
HMG Data
Can be referenced as evidence of success in existing and future funding applications & to advocate for inclusion in Federal Reporting
Can be used to support future priorities

Return on Investment (ROI)

HMG's Systems Approach Supports Children and Families and Generates Cross-Sector Benefits

HMG services benefit children, parents and families, pregnant women, primary care physicians, child services providers, and society at large.



HMG ROI Calculator



HMG Return on Investment (ROI) Calculator: a customizable Excel model designed to capture **system-specific** costs, savings, and ROI associated with HMG services and supports provided to children, families, and pregnant women.

- **Help Me Grow Return on Investment (ROI)** is a measure of cross-sector savings generated by a specific HMG system compared to program costs.

- **ROI** can be an effective tool for demonstrating an early childhood system's ability to efficiently use resources to maximize impact, and for helping funders and stakeholders understand the value of their contributions.

HMG ROI Calculator: Demonstrated Cost Savings

In addition to ROI, The HMG ROI Calculator provides affiliates with the ability to demonstrate their unique Cost-Savings across various dimensions.

HMG Return on Investment:

a measure of cross-sector savings generated by a HMG system compared to program costs

Across identified services

- Early Detection
- Diversion
- Positive Parenting
- Maternal Depression Screening and Treatment
- Food Security
- Early Preventative Dental Care

By sector

- Early Intervention / Education
- Public Assistance
- Child Welfare
- Criminal Justice
- Healthcare

By population served

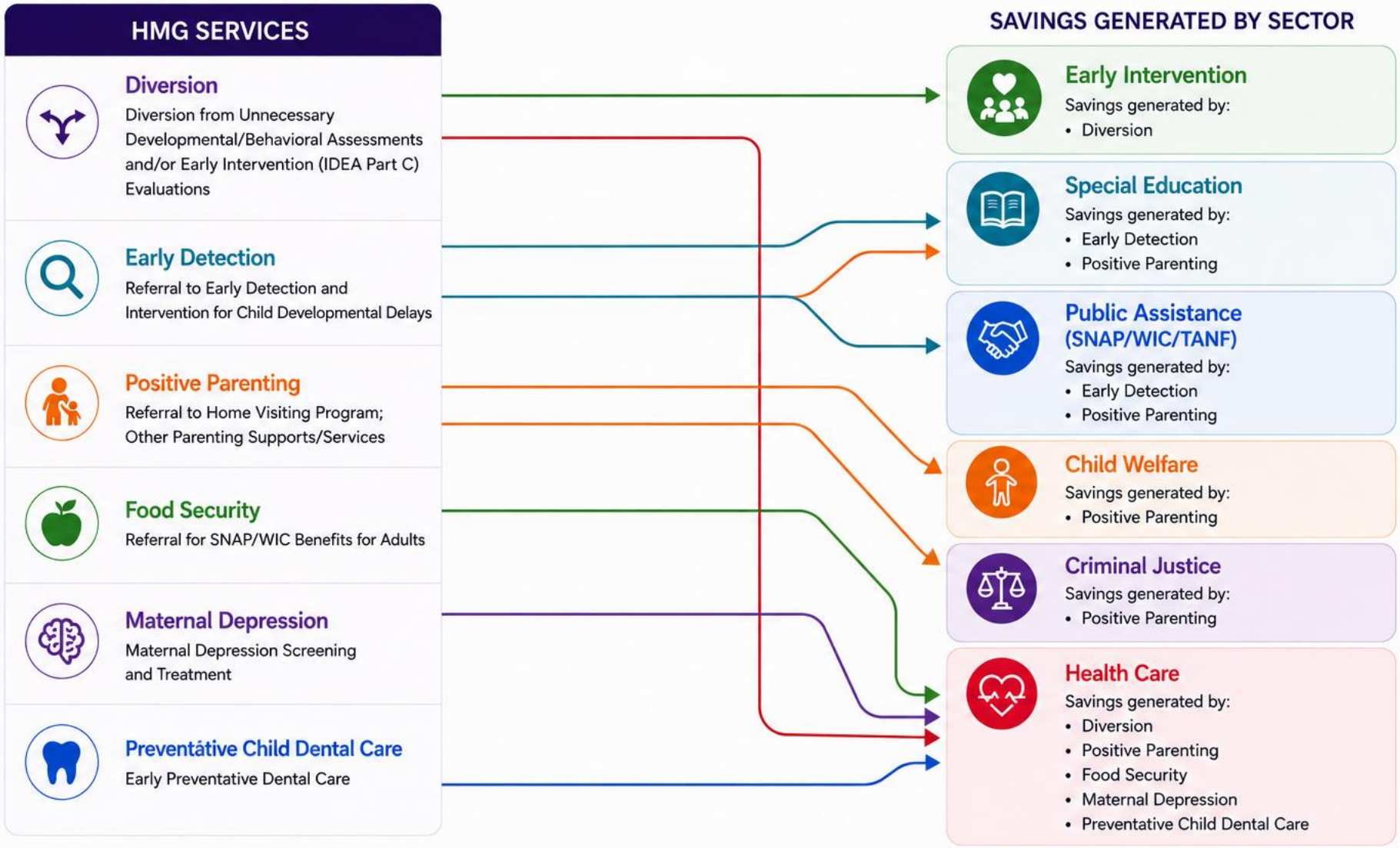
- Children
- Adults

By Timeframe

- Short Term (≤ 1 year)
- Longer Term (> 1 year)

How HMG Services Inform Savings Across Sectors

Savings in each sector are generated by specific HMG services.



HMG ROI Cohort Participants

A growing group of HMG systems across the country.



- Alabama
- Alaska
- California
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Kansas
- Maine
- Michigan
- New York
- New Jersey
- Oregon
- South Carolina
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin

Note: These are HMG systems that participated in the ROI cohort between 2021 and 2026.

ROI Tools have been leveraged by over **50 HMG systems** across **19 States.**

Wide Range of Savings

$105K to $97M

Most systems generate **between $2 and $5 in savings** for **every $1 invested in HMG,** with some systems generating **up to $29** in quantifiable savings over the longer term.

HMG National Center Team

Affiliate Network, Affiliation, and Opportunities to Engage with Us

Help Me Grow National Center



Kimberly Martini-Carvell
Executive Director



Sarah Zucker, BA
Associate Director of Strategic Partnerships & Network Relations



Melissa Passarelli, MA
Associate Director of Implementation & Systems-Building



Sara Sibley, MBA
Associate Director of Business Development & Operations



Melissa Miller, MPH, PMP
Associate Director of Impact & Network Performance



Laraib Humayun, LMSW, MPH
Program Manager of Implementation & Systems-Building



Morgan Reiss, LMSW
Program Manager of Policy & Community Change



Skyley Parizek, MPH
Senior Program Specialist of Business & Administration



Brittany Stuart, MPH
Program Specialist of Implementation & Systems-Building



Gabby Hamel, BA
Program Specialist of Communications & Network Relations



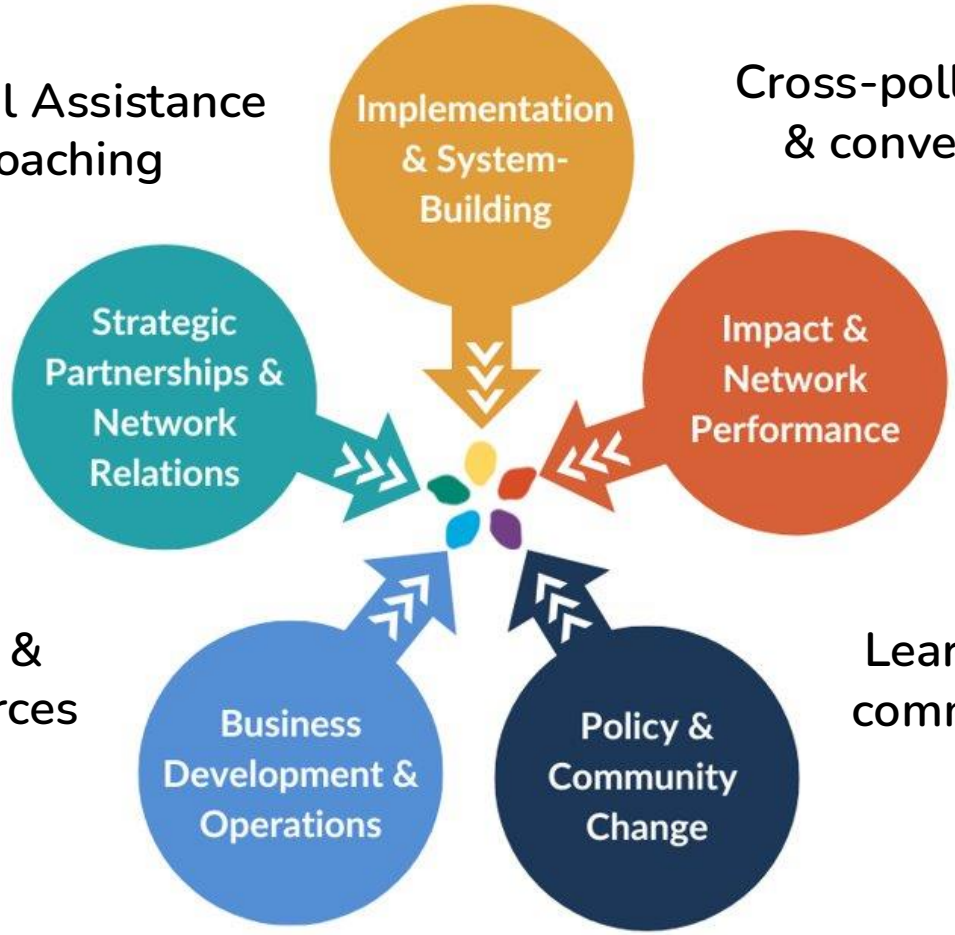
Chandni Patel, MPH
Program Coordinator of Impact & Network Performance

The National Center - How We Work

Help Me Grow National Center

Technical Assistance & Coaching

Cross-pollination & convening



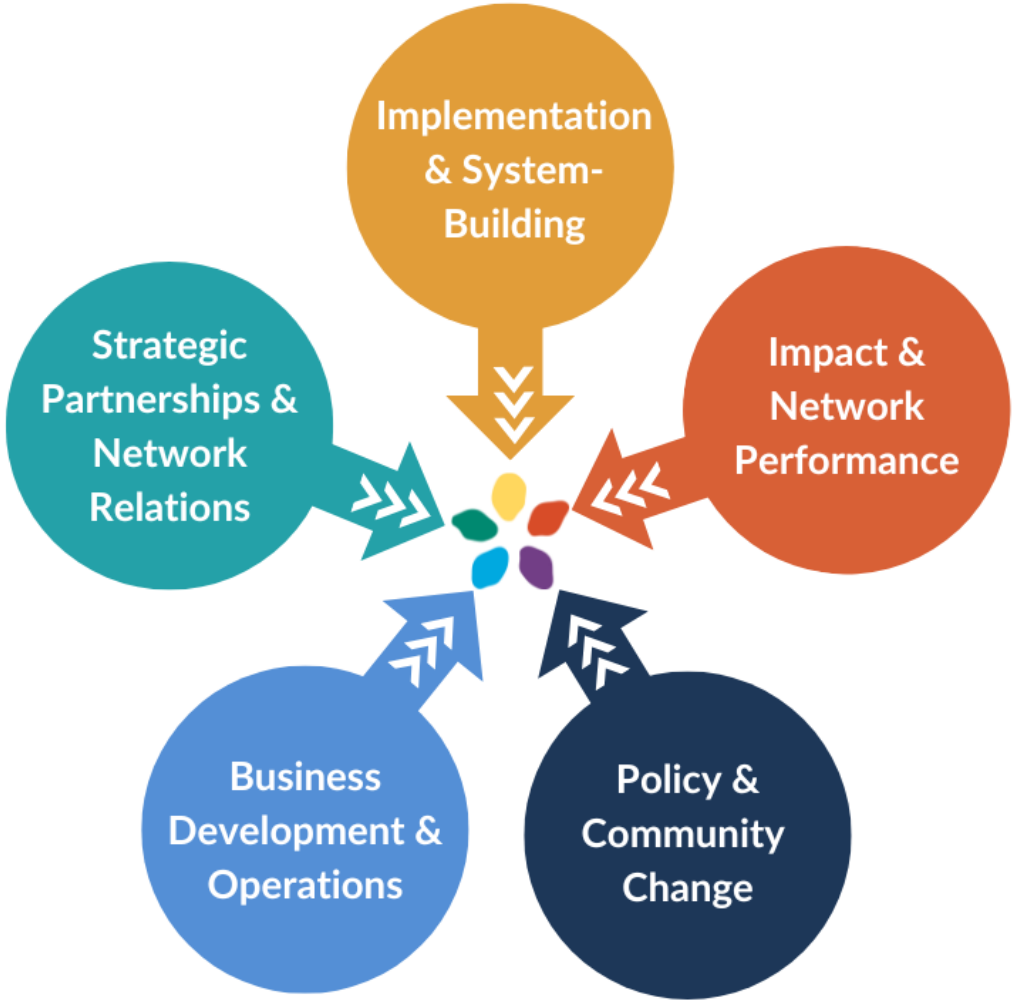
Tools & Resources

Learning communities, communities of practice

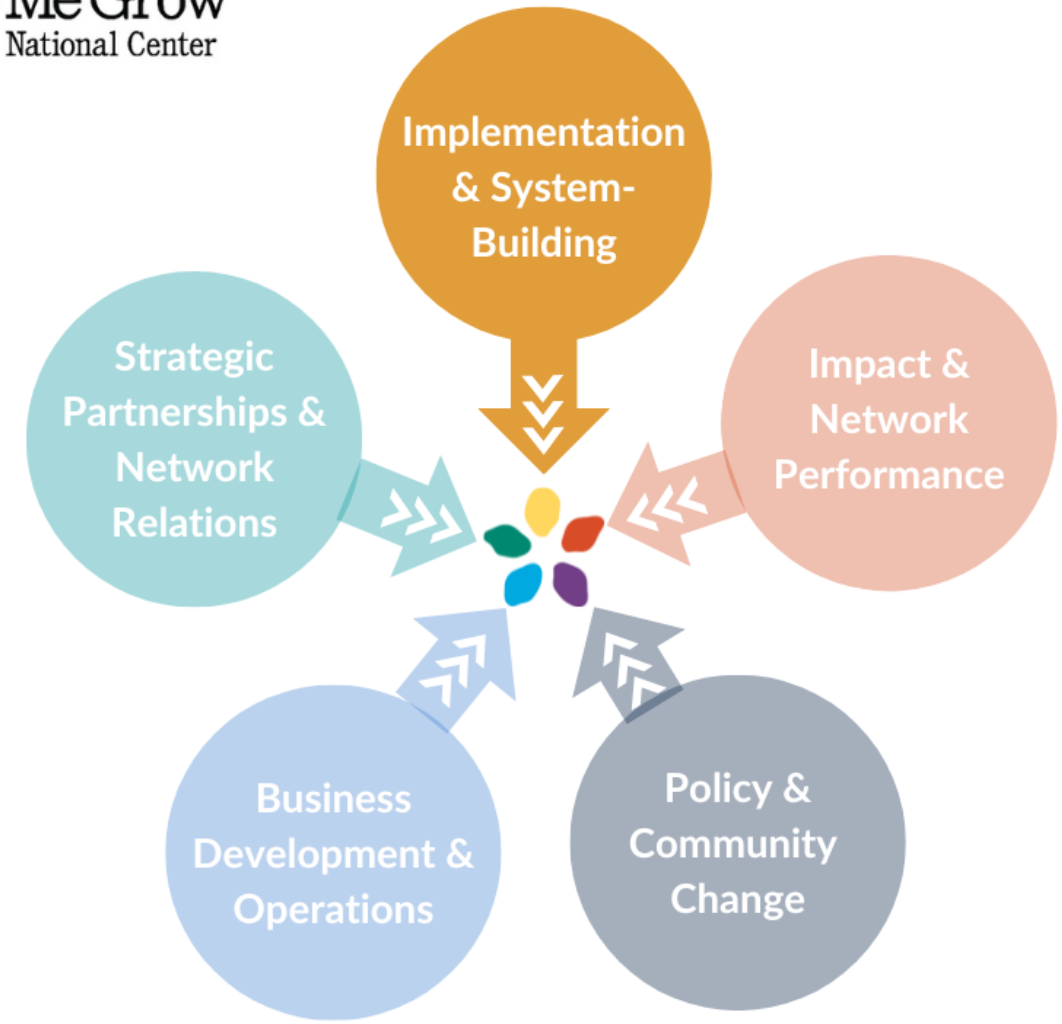
Help Me Grow National Center



Kimberly Martini-Carvell
Executive Director



Help Me Grow
National Center





Melissa Passarelli, MA
Associate Director

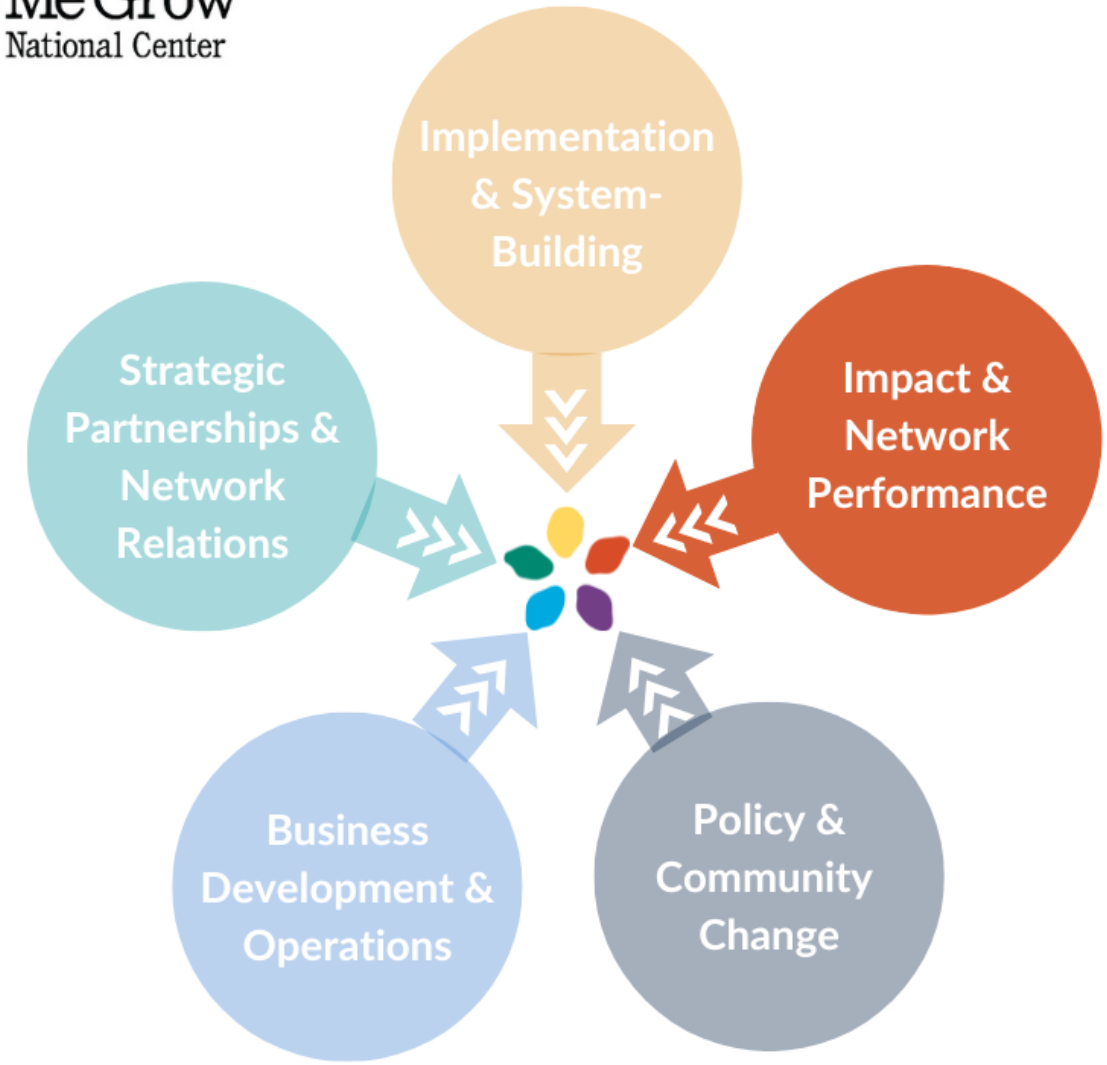


Laraib Humayun, LMSW, MPH
Program Manager



Brittany Stuart, MPH
Program Specialist

Help Me Grow
National Center



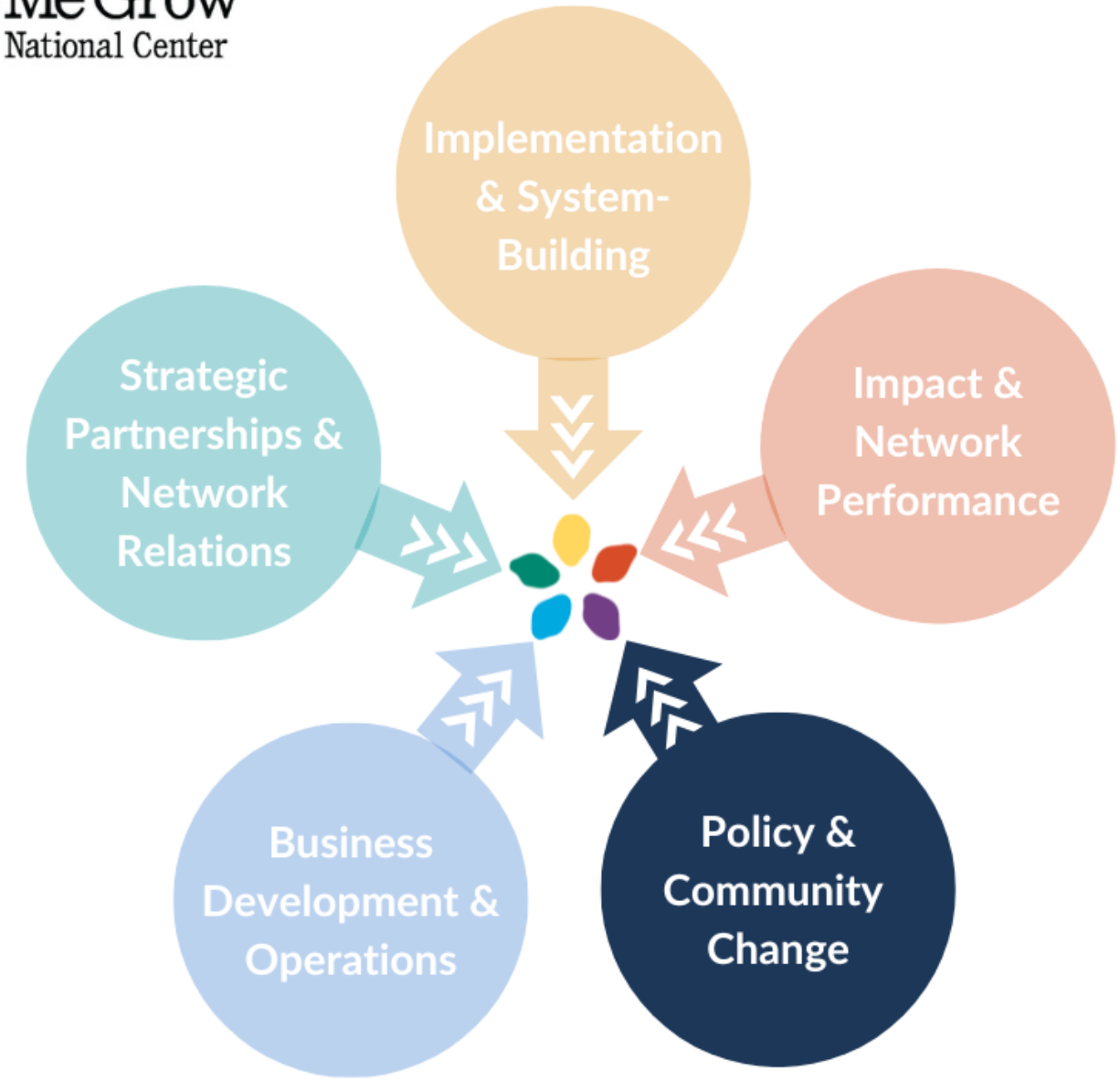


Melissa Miller, MPH, PMP
Associate Director



Chandni Patel
Impact and Network Performance Specialist

Help Me Grow
National Center





Morgan Reiss, LMSW
Manager for Policy Alignment & Community Change

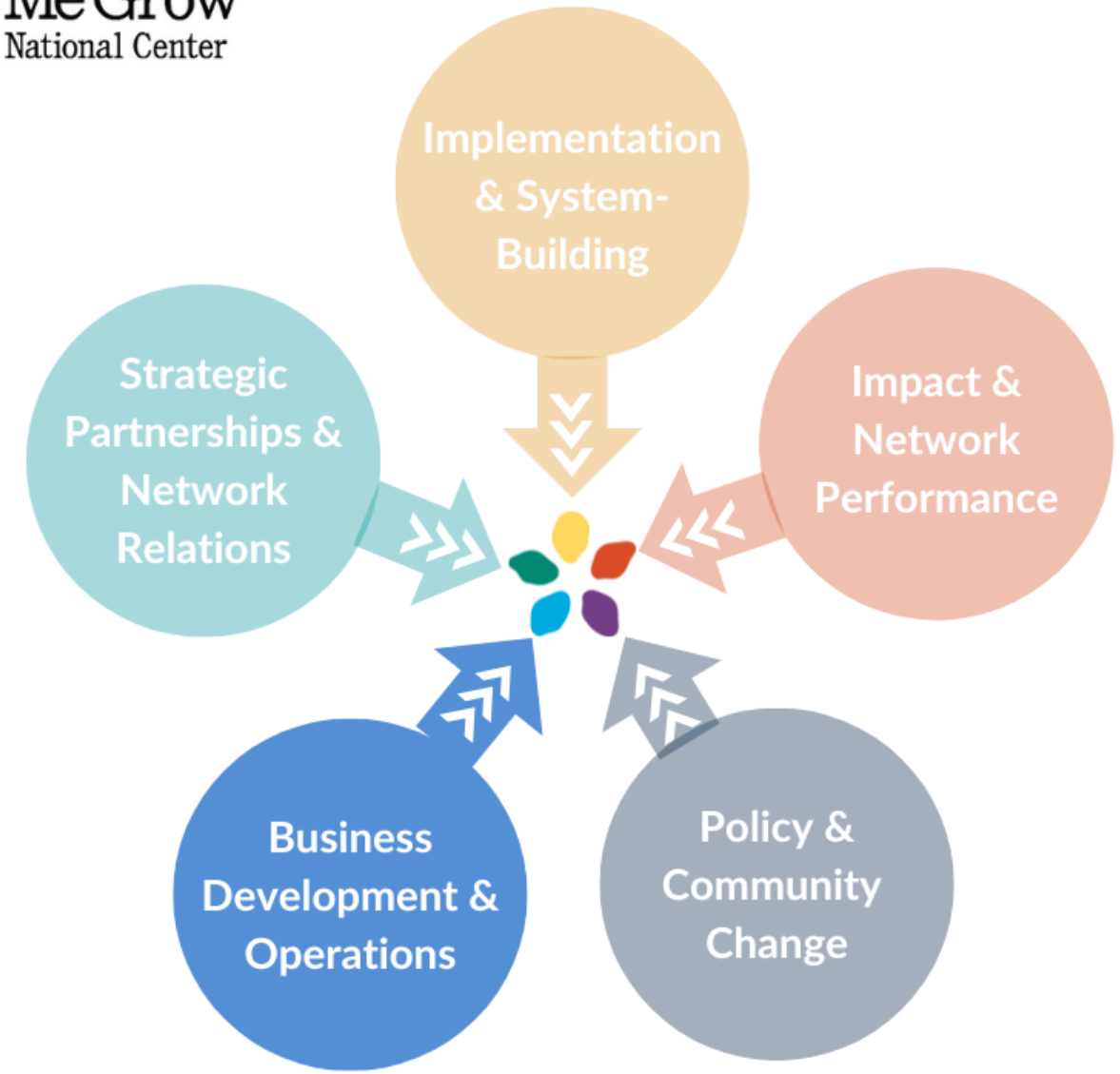
Help Me Grow
National Center



Sara Sibley, MBA
Associate Director



Skyley Parizek, MPH
Program Manager



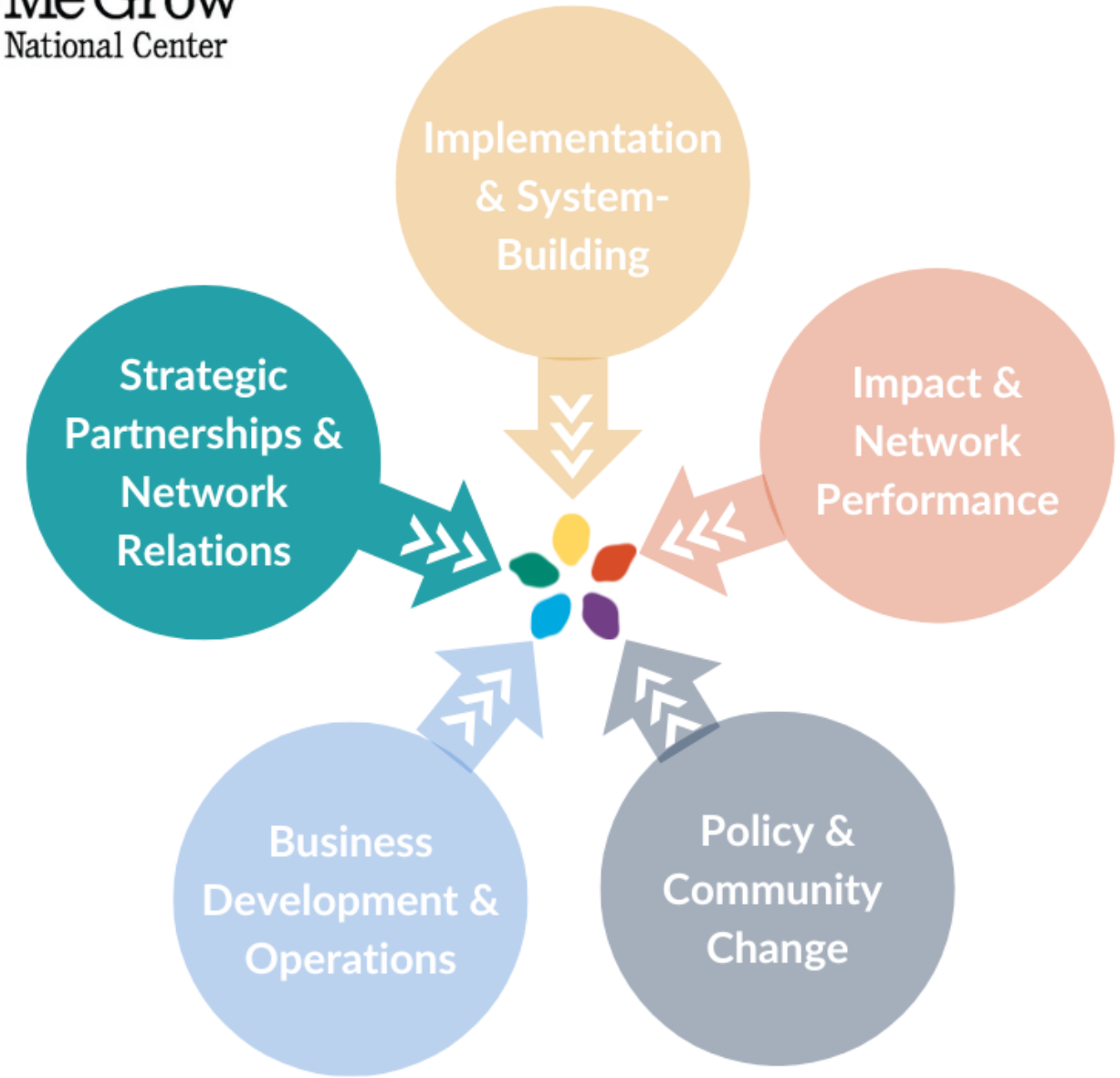
Help Me Grow
National Center



Sarah Zucker, BA
Associate Director



Gabby Hamel
Communications and Network Relations Specialist



HMG National Network Affiliation

National expertise

The HMG National Center is the only national resource supporting replication of the HMG Model.

Resources and connection

Affiliation provides access to resources, information, funding opportunities, and opportunities to learn from HMG system leaders across the country.



National & Federal Partners



Benefits of affiliation

A National Center behind your team

Expertise, resources, and peer connections for HMG leaders and their teams

Support for your work

Marketing & communications

Use of the HMG name and logo

TA & capacity building

National Learning Communities
Annual HMG National Forums
Topic-based affiliate communities of practice

Tools & resources

Affiliate Resource Hub
National Center data reports
HMG ROI Calculator and business case materials

Advocacy support

Federal and state priorities
Policy briefs
Letters of support

Technical Assistance & Capacity Building



Technical Assistance & Coaching

Expert guidance & tailored support



Cross-Pollination & Convening

Sharing insights, ideas & innovations

HMG Affiliate Network

Locally led, community-embedded systems



Tools & Resources

Practical templates, guides & tools



Learning Communities & Communities of Practice

Peer learning and innovation testing

Testimonials

VOICES FROM THE HMG COMMUNITY

"HMG National excels at connecting affiliates in meaningful ways that promote collaboration, idea-sharing, and innovation. Through effective communication channels, networking opportunities, and shared best practices, affiliates are well supported and able to learn from one another. These connections add significant value and strengthen the overall organization."

Anonymous, Annual Satisfaction Survey

"The **demand for Help Me Grow Alaska continues to grow.** As of today, Help Me Grow Alaska has opened more than 1,300 family cases in the current year alone, demonstrating the ongoing need for coordinated family support services. Beyond the number of families served, the **HMG Model has strengthened collaboration among community partners, improved referral pathways, identified service gaps and barriers through data collection, and provided valuable insights that inform system-level improvements.**

Robyn McCormas, HMG Alaska

"**The Help Me Grow Model has shifted our community's approach from reactive to proactive.** By identifying developmental concerns early, connecting families to services before challenges escalate, and addressing social determinants of health alongside developmental needs, **we are helping build a stronger foundation for children and families.** The result is a more responsive early childhood system, improved access to support during times of crisis, and a clearer understanding of the needs and strengths of children ages 0–5 throughout our community.

Summer Merrick, HMG Onondaga, NY

Next Steps to Join the Help Me Grow Network

01

Connect with HMG National

Reach out to begin the conversation.

02

Complete a Pathfinder Assessment

Identify the best path for implementation support.

03

Confirm your affiliation

Complete the annual affiliation letter and fee.



Key Takeaways & Wrap -Up

Key Takeaways from Today's Session

- HMG's mission is to ensure every child has access to the resources needed to live in good health and well-being.
- HMG is not a program, but a cross-sector system-building initiative that seeks to create a seamless experience for families and communities supporting young children.
- HMG helps communities move beyond the strength of individual programs or organizations toward shared responsibility for how the early childhood system functions and how families experience it.
- HMG strengthens systems coordination, increases linkage to services, reduces fragmentation, makes better use of existing resources, generates cost savings, and builds durable infrastructure.
- With 130+ examples, HMG Model implementation varies based on local assets and needs—HMG defines what communities ensure is in place without prescribing one way to implement it.

Open House Part 2:

Let's keep the conversation going next week!

Wednesday, October 28 at 4:00 PM ET





Help Me Grow®

National Center