

Help Me Grow North Texas News

August 2021 Edition

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Reminders:

- Next Quarterly Subcommittee meetings will be held in September
- 2 Year Celebration will be on September 30th at Arlington Downtown Library from 12-2
- Follow us on social media (Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram) @HelpMeGrowNTX

Back to School Events

Over the last month and a half, community agencies across the DFW metroplex have been hosting "Back to School" events to share resources and give information to families to set them up for a successful school year. Staff from My Health My Resources of Tarrant County, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, and Child Care Group have been representing the Help Me Grow North Texas efforts at the various events. Through these three agencies, 13 events were attended across six counties impacting thousands of families. Attendees at the events were given Help Me Grow North Texas promotional materials and had an opportunity to hear about what the Centralized Access Point (call center with Family Navigators) could do for them and their families.

Thank you to all of the staff that made these events possible and the community agencies that invited Help Me Grow North Texas to be present. If you would like Help Me Grow North Texas to be represented at your event(s), please email Faith.Rivera@mhmrtc.org and she will connect you with the staff that could potentially work your event.

AUCD Grant Year 1

Expanding "*Learn the Signs. Act Early.*" across the state

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), through partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics, created the "*Learn the Signs. Act Early.*" materials to focus on engaging families in their child's development, empower them to act if they are concerned about missing milestones, and increase families' access to developmental screening and early intervention services. Every state has one to two Act Early ambassadors that are tasked with integrating these materials within their statewide early childhood systems. In Texas, there are two co-ambassadors, Laura Kender, Chief of Child and Family Services at My Health My Resources of Tarrant County and Claire Niday, State Child Health Coordinator for the Texas Department of State Health Services. In August of 2020, The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) offered Texas a grant opportunity to further expand usage of these materials across the state of Texas.

This grant offered the support to be able to launch a "Deputy Ambassador" program across 12 agencies in Texas. The Deputy Ambassadors received training on the materials, integration of developmental milestones within a practice, and lessons learned from Help Me Grow North Texas Community Alignment Coordinator, Faith Rivera, who served as the grant lead in support of the work Claire and Laura were doing as the co-ambassadors. The Deputy Ambassadors also received material kits with free "*Learn the Signs. Act Early.*" materials to share with families and/or partner agencies that they work with. Through the Deputy Ambassadors, materials have been spread across a variety of agencies statewide. This grant also brought forth the need for statewide funding to support printing and distribution of these materials and further training/technical assistance for providers around integrating developmental milestones within their practice and having conversations with families about their child's development.

Deputy Ambassadors are now embedded within all 6 Help Me Grow Texas sites, Texas Early Childhood Intervention, Texas Prenatal to Three Collaborative, Texas Pediatric Society, Texas Education Agency, Texas Head Start Collaborative, Department of Family & Protective Services Prevention and Early Intervention, and The Texas Association for the Education of Young Children.



Subcommittee Action Plans Year 2

The Help Me Grow North Texas subcommittees launched in May of 2020 with their first action plans. A year later, the subcommittees began strategic planning to update their action plans for year two of their work. In May, the leadership of each subcommittee met together to determine accomplishments from year one and created several high level focus areas for year two. All five subcommittees actively embedded family leadership and diversity, equity, and inclusion into actionable items and focus areas within their action plans.

Centralized Access & Navigation

Additional Focus Areas for Year Two:

- 1) Expand and evolve family navigation across the region
- 2) Partner with marketing and data subcommittees for targeted strategies to increase awareness
- 3) CAP responding to community, provider, & family needs



Provider Support & Training

Additional Focus Areas for Year Two:

- 1) Build capacity of early childhood providers through training and support
- 2) Partner with other subcommittees as projects arise (i.e. data, marketing trainings)
- 3) Launch and sustain Teachable platform to share Help Me Grow North Texas sponsored trainings



Data Collection & Analysis

The Data Collection & Analysis Subcommittee is excited to welcome its newest co-chair, Caty Field, from United Way Metropolitan Dallas. She is an Administrative Coordinator and Data Entry Specialist. Caty joins fellow subcommittee co-chairs Anne Ware, Danielle Rohr, & Karin Scott.

Additional Focus Areas for Year Two:

- 1) Each subcommittee better integrates RBA
- 2) Workgroups continue to work/integrate within the other subcommittees
- 3) Use data to tell the story of Help Me Grow North Texas
- 4) Incorporate county data into RBA scorecard processes



Marketing & Community Outreach

The Marketing & Community Outreach Subcommittee is excited to welcome its newest co-chair, LaTasha Splane, from United Way Metropolitan Dallas. She is the Dallas HOPES Director. LaTasha joins fellow subcommittee co-chairs Faith Rivera and Julie Morris.

Additional Focus Areas for Year Two:

- 1) Long term sustainability
- 2) Communications alignment with local, state, & national initiatives/movements
- 3) Strengthening and increasing effectiveness of partnerships
- 4) Data driven targeted strategies
- 5) Engage with families to provide marketing feedback and incorporate it into strategies/marketing pieces
- 6) Use data to tell the story of Help Me Grow North Texas



Family Engagement

Additional Focus Areas for Year Two:

- 1) Establish the Family Advisory Council and integrate their leadership and voice into all aspects of Help Me Grow North Texas
- 2) Establish family partners and build up their capacity and leadership
- 3) Build capacity of family serving organizations for family leadership
- 4) Increase protective factors of families engaging with Help Me Grow North Texas



The Family Engagement subcommittee is excited to soon bring on-board the first seven Help Me Grow North Texas family partners thanks to the support of the Pritzker Children's Initiative. They will serve in a leadership capacity within the subcommittees and help establish the Family Advisory Council to integrate family leadership and family driven care into all aspects of Help Me Grow North Texas. The Rainwater Charitable Foundation has graciously offered to support sending these family partners and a few Help Me Grow North Texas staff to the National Center for Families Learning Conference in October in Dallas to learn more about family engagement and bring information back to this work.

New Marketing Material



THE BEST PERSON TO TRACK YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT IS YOU!

#1

Scan the QR code or go to <https://helpmegrownorthtexas.org/developmental-screening/> to do a free developmental screening to learn more about how your child learns, plays and grows.



#2

Complete both screenings. The ASQ-3 looks at the five major areas: communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal-social. The ASQ:SE-2 looks at your child's behavior, managing emotions, and interacting with others.



#3

After you do the screenings, a Family Navigator will call you. The Family Navigator can answer questions and help you connect to community resources or services.



THIS SERVICE IS FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL!

844-NTX-KIDS (844-689-5437)
www.HelpMeGrowNorthTexas.org

Help Me Grow North Texas recently launched a new family focused flyer about developmental screening. This flyer currently is only available in English, but will soon be available in Spanish as well. It shows three easy steps for families to be able to access free developmental screenings for their children and how they will receive their results. This flyer can be ordered along with all other free Help Me Grow North Texas marketing materials at the ordering form [here](#).

Other materials available for order include Help Me Grow North Texas flyers, rack cards, Milestone Moment Booklets, App flyers for the CDC Milestone Tracker App, and "Track Your Child's Development" trifold.