

# Help Me Grow North Texas News

April 2021 Edition

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## Reminders:

- Next Quarterly Subcommittee meetings will be held in June
- Next Collaborative Meeting will be held in July 21 8:30-10 AM
- Check out updates to the Help Me Grow North Texas website

## Thank you and Farewell to Michelle Larva



Michelle Larva, the Project Manager for the Early Learning Alliance, will be leaving her position at the end of May to move back to her home country, Finland. Michelle's leadership has been pivotal in Tarrant County over the last three years. She was the initial Pritzker Fellow in Tarrant County who helped coordinate the Infant & Toddler Developmental Screening Initiative in 2018-2019 and mobilized the collaborative to adopt the Help Me Grow framework in Tarrant in 2019, launching Help Me Grow North Texas. Her leadership has helped support cross-sector collaboration, rallying child care, home visiting, health partners, and other nonprofits around Help Me Grow North Texas' mission. She was one of the founding co-chairs of the marketing subcommittee. Her skills were also vital in Help Me Grow North Texas securing the very competitive Pritzker Community Innovation Grant through being the grant narrative composer. Michelle thank you for your leadership and you will be so missed!!

# Benefits of Partnering with Help Me Grow North Texas

As Help Me Grow North Texas is expanding partnerships and outreach across the entire North Texas area, it is important to highlight stories of how partnership is impacting local organizations and families. Heather Beal, Delivery System Reform Incentive Program and Community Health Manager for Wise Health System and one of the coordinators for the Wise Executive Committee for Community Health Objectives (ECCHO), shares below why it has been beneficial for Wise Health and Wise ECCHO to partner with Help Me Grow North Texas.

"Help Me Grow North Texas has helped Wise County families connect with resources within the county and allow them to access these resources easily. At the December 2020 Wise Gives event, there was the ability to distribute baby wipes and diapers to the families in Wise County through a grant that Help Me Grow North Texas distributed to Wise Health. This partnership has raised awareness about the needs of children and their families in our Wise County community. Without Help Me Grow North Texas, many families would not be aware of the services that are available to them. We appreciate this partnership and all it brings to the families in Wise County!"

The pictures below show the Wise Gives 2020 event. Help Me Grow North Texas information was given out to families at the event.



# Year One Review

## Help Me Grow North Texas Centralized Access Point

Help Me Grow North Texas’ Centralized Access Point (call center and resource database) launched April 1, 2020 under the leadership of Leann Turbeville, Program Director for the Centralized Access Point and Navigation at My Health My Resources of Tarrant County. This timeline was four months earlier than the original launch date of August 1 that was changed due to the onset of the COVID-19, Help Me Grow North Texas leadership felt this resource for families was needed as a support during COVID-19 causing shut downs in North Texas. Originally, the Family Navigator team consisted of eight My Health My Resources employees and now, with the addition of Dallas and Collin, includes two Family Navigators and another supervisor from ChildCareGroup, LaQuitha Hasley. During this first year, the team has had to be resilient, adaptive, and learn how to best support families through this new initiative.

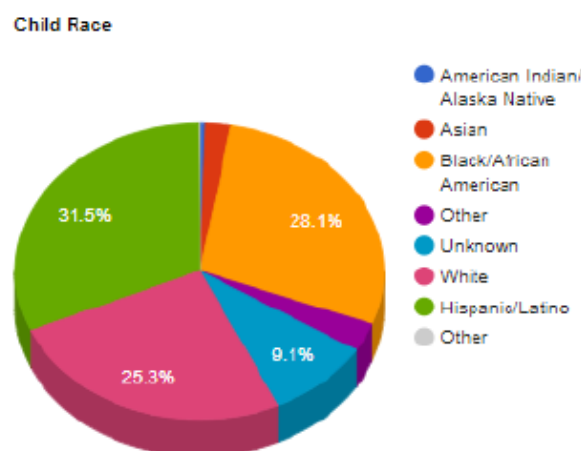
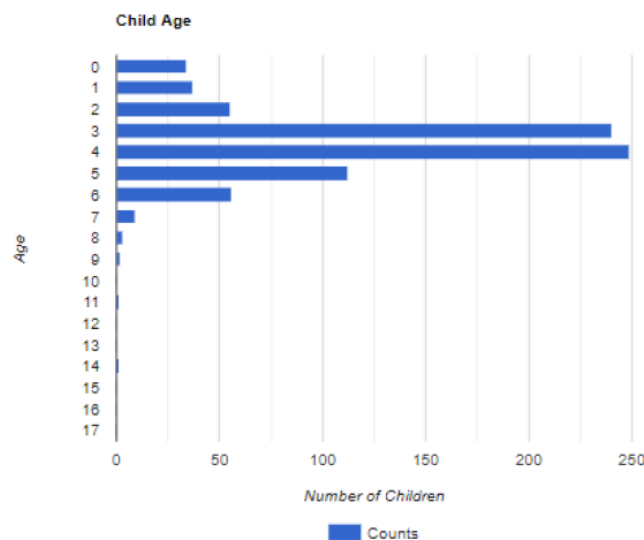
Below is the overall dashboard data for year one of the Centralized Access Point:

<b>273</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>2854</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>10</b>
Open Enrollments	Closed Enrollments	Total Enrollments	Referrals Made	Utilized Referrals	Active Navigators
PRIORITY OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED		TOP 10 REFERRALS MADE			
92%	Child Development	394	Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)		
13%	Utilities	164	CDC free milestone tracker		
12%	Activities	134	Family Support Coaching formerly HOPES Home Visiting		
12%	Food	61	Child Find Fort Worth Independent School District		
11%	Housing	43	Early Childhood Intervention of North Central TX (ECI)		
4%	Legal	34	The Telos Project		
0%	Diapers	31	Nest Program		
0%	Tobacco Cessation	30	Parents as Teachers - FWISD		
		29	Early Childhood Services MHMR of Tarrant County Groups		
		26	Your Texas Benefits		

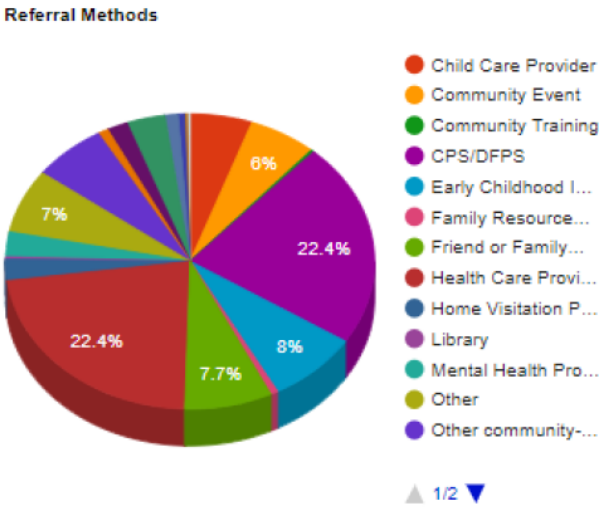
Over the past 13 months, a total of 771 families have been referred to Help Me Grow North Texas. Family Navigators have assisted families with accessing 2,854 resources, closed the loop on 1,006 resources, closed 498 enrollments, and are actively serving 273 open enrollments. Families primarily identified their top concerns respectively child development, utilities assistance, activities (childcare), food, and housing. Most cases are actively open for at least three months and occasionally up to six months.

Out of 771 families who were referred to Help Me Grow North Texas, approximately 80% were contacted successfully (615/771), and received Social Determinant of Health Screenings along with Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and/or mental health screenings. Approximately 48% Families completed ASQ screenings with Help Me Grow North Texas. However, screenings were already completed by a number of community stakeholders and affiliates prior to a referral to Help Me Grow North Texas.

Families with children of a variety of ages and racial backgrounds are receiving support from Help Me Grow North Texas. We strive to support all families with children birth through age six. Below is the summary for the children's age that have been supported by Help Me Grow North Texas as well as the racial makeup of the families served. The highest population of families referred to Help Me Grow North Texas included: Hispanic (31.5%); Black (28.1%); white (25.3%); unknown and other (12%); Asian (2%); and Native American (.5%).

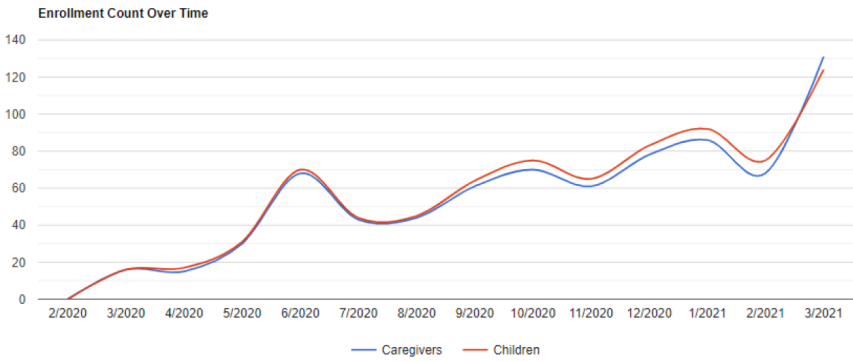


Referrals to Help Me Grow North Texas were primarily from Child Protective Services (22.4%) and medical healthcare providers (22.4%). Other sources included Early Childhood Intervention (8%), friends and family (7.7%), other/miscellaneous (7%), other community-based organizations (6.5%), community events (6%), and childcare providers (5.4%) were notably identified. The most unique referral (and the most praised by the Family Navigation team) was a family who was given information about Help Me Grow North Texas from their Uber driver, good news travels fast!



Enrollment has steadily increased over time, and on average has hovered around 60-70 enrollments per month. However, for the month of March 2021, enrollment spiked to an all-time high of 131 monthly enrollments.

A total of ten Family Navigators are currently providing screening and resource assistance along with follow-up calls to ensure families are able to connect with providers and community resources. Most Family Navigators are attempting and/or successfully engaging with an individual family (on average) six to eight times during the span of an open enrollment. We are steadily making progress in North Texas, but need referrals to continue to come in. If you have any questions on referring a family to Help Me Grow North Texas, contact [info@helpmegrownorthtexas.org](mailto:info@helpmegrownorthtexas.org).



# Texas A&M "Coaching to Communicate"

## Family and Educator Sessions

Texas A&M is offering "Coaching to Communicate" sessions to parents and educators who have a child up to the age of 22 with Autism Spectrum Disorder. It's provided anywhere in the state of Texas and is free. It is offered in English and Spanish and it is individualized based on your child's needs. There is limited availability.

- Parents are offered coaching to improve their child's communication.
- Educators can complete modules while earning CEU's and learn evidence-based strategies for autism and behavior.

The parent training sessions will be 10, one-hour sessions over the course of 12 – 16 weeks. Shorter coaching sessions are also available. Trainings can either be face-to-face or online.

If interested, here is the link to sign up: [C2C Page - C2C Coach to Communicate \(tamu.edu\)](https://autism.tamu.edu/C2C-Coach-to-Communicate)


**TEXAS A&M**  
UNIVERSITY

Center on Disability  
and Development

## Calling Parents, Researchers, and Educators who Work with Children with Autism!

**Coach to Communicate (C2C):**

- *FREE individualized parent coaching*
- *Improve your child's communication skills*
- *Caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder, birth to 22*
- *Anywhere in Texas*
- *English & Spanish-fluent coaches*
- *Apply at [autism.tamu.edu](https://autism.tamu.edu)*



**Preparing Researchers, Educators, and Parents (PREP):**

- *Complete FREE modules while earning CEUs*
- *Learn evidence-based strategies for autism and behavior!*
- *Apply at <https://prep.catalog.instructure.com>*



Funding for this project is provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.