

FACT SHEET ON OHIO'S HOME VISITING PROGRAM



Who qualifies for Ohio's Home Visiting Program?

Help Me Grow serves three groups of children and their families:

- First-time parents with a household income below 200% of the federal poverty level, enrolled prenatally through six months after the birth of their first child.
- A child under age 3 referred from Child Protective Services, with a substantiated case of abuse or neglect.
- A child under age 3 with at least one parent in active military duty.

What is the Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program?

Help Me Grow's Home Visiting Program provides support for parents before and after the birth of their child. Help Me Grow helps expectant parents prepare emotionally and physically for their child's birth. New parents receive information and guidance on the needs of newborns, both from health and developmental perspectives.

Where can parents get Help Me Grow Home Visiting services?

Help Me Grow programs are available in all 88 Ohio counties. Call 1-800-755-4769 or check www.ohiohelpmegrow for locations and more information.

What are the goals of Ohio's home visiting program?

1. Increase the number of healthy pregnancies
2. Improve parenting confidence and competence
3. Increase family connectedness to community and social support
4. Improve child health, development and school readiness

How is Help Me Grow funded?

The Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program is funded through a combination of local, state and federal funds. In SFYs 2010 and 2011, total annual funding (state and federal) is \$54.2 million. Of the total, \$36.5 million comes from the state. The state contribution is \$29.47 million less than the funding for SFY 2009, when a combination of state general revenue funds and federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding supported the program. In addition to this state support, many counties are also investing local public and private dollars to support Help Me Grow administration and services.

What services are provided to families?

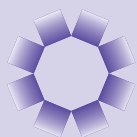
- Evidence-based parenting and education curriculum to teach and inform.
- Screening, status checks and assessments to identify developmental health concerns.



- Need-based referral and resource linkage to meet a variety of needs.
- Transition at age 3 to child development enhancing program to continue the learning.

Why is home visiting important?

- **Ohio's young children need quality early care and education programs so they start school ready to learn.**
- **Investing early in young children makes scientific sense.** Scientific research shows that 90% of a child's intellectual and emotional capacity is determined by brain development in the first three years of life. By strengthening families and helping parents provide appropriate brain stimulation during this period, Help Me Grow maximizes the social, mental and physical development of high-risk children.
- **Investing early in young children is cost-effective.** When we start early, we can help all children start school with the early education and social skills they need. That means fewer discipline problems and fewer special programs for kids who are in trouble. For example, studies have begun to show a direct link between early parental support through home visitation and a decline in the number of children entering the child welfare system.



**VOICES FOR
OHIO'S CHILDREN**

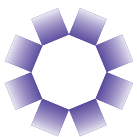
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CHILD HEALTH MATTERS

It's time to strengthen Help Me Grow

Because of state and federal funding cuts, Help Me Grow cannot serve the children and families who need services. More than 29,000 first-time families need Help Me Grow Home Visiting services but cannot enroll in the program. We need Ohio policymakers to:

- Maintain state general revenue fund investments for home visiting services because we know they produce better outcomes for children and families.
- Improve the quality of home visiting services by independently evaluating programs, allowing us to make sure we are improving child and family outcomes successfully with these investments.
- Provide training and professional development opportunities for home visiting providers to ensure they have the appropriate expertise to meet the needs of children and families.
- Pursue opportunities to secure federal reimbursement for home visiting services so we can leverage all resources to support high quality home-based services.



VOICES FOR
OHIO'S CHILDREN

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