

**Connecticut Appropriations Committee RBA Template
Part II, Program/Agency/System Accountability Summary**

Agency Purpose:

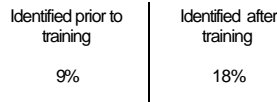
The purpose of the Children’s Trust Fund is to prevent child abuse and neglect and to ensure the positive growth and development of children

Program Purpose:

Help Me Grow is a prevention program for all children who are experiencing the developmental challenges of growing up. Children who are facing behavioral, learning and other developmental difficulties are connected to local programs. *Help Me Grow* trains parents, pediatric and other providers to recognize the early signs of developmental problems and to contact *Help Me Grow* when they have a concern.

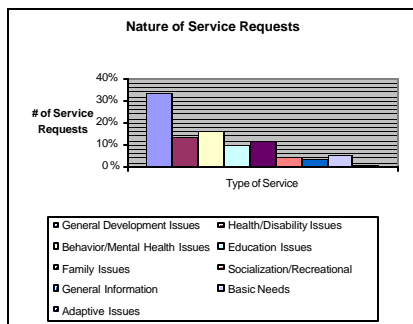
Performance Measure 1

Identification of children with developmental or behavioral risks doubled following the training provided to pediatric providers by *Help Me Grow* staff.



Performance Measure 2

10,000 calls were made to *Help Me Grow* from parents, pediatric and other providers who were concerned about a child’s behavior, learning or development in the past four years.



| Key Budget Information | |
|--|-----------|
| Total Current Program Year Funding | \$637,264 |
| Funding as Percent of All Funding for Population Result | |
| Program Funding As Percent of Total Agency Budget | 4% |
| Funding Distribution | |
| Total Federal Funds | \$37,500 |
| Total State Funds | \$599,764 |
| Capital Projects Subtotal | |
| Other Funding | |
| Percent of Total Current Funding Contracted to Third Parties | 66% |

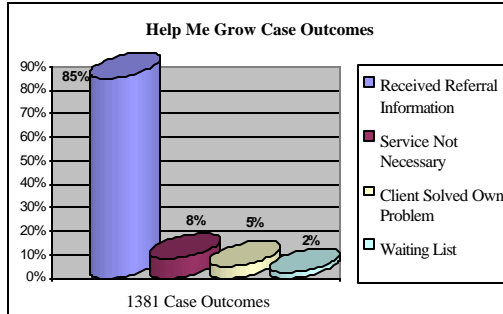
Story Behind the Baselines

Measure 1: This finding is based on a two- year research project supported by The Commonwealth Fund. Data was collected on training provided to 150 pediatric and family practices in the state.

Measure 2: 34% of the calls were about child development, 17% related to behavioral or mental health concerns, 35% were about health, disability, education and family issues.

Performance Measure 3

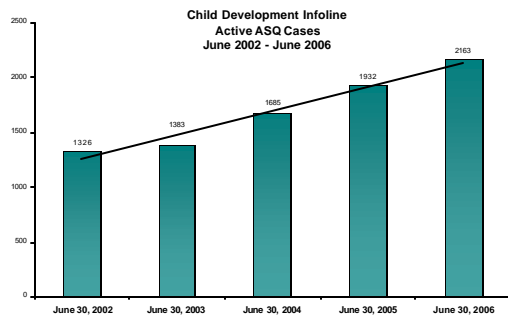
86% of families received referrals for services and information.



Measure 3: Out of a sample of 1381 families 86% received referrals for services and information.

Performance Measure 4

In 2006 more than 2,163 families kept track of their child’s development by using the *Help Me Grow* Ages & Stages Monitoring Program.



Measure 4: Since June 30, 2002 participation in the Ages & Stages program has increased by 63%.

Turning The Curves: What do you propose to do over the next two years and why?

- Increase the number of parents, pediatric and other providers who identify children at risk for developmental and behavioral delays.
- Increase the number of people who contact Help Me Grow when they have a concern about how a child is developing through increased marketing and outreach.

Low Cost-No Cost:

- Distribute Ages & Stages Child Development Kits statewide to pediatric practices to encourage universal monitoring of development by parents at four month well child visit
- Identifying young children with developmental and behavioral concerns ensures that they get connected to needed services, increasing the chances of success in school and beyond.

**Connecticut Appropriations Committee RBA Template
Part II, Program/Agency/System Accountability**

Agency Purpose

The purpose of the Children’s Trust Fund is to prevent child abuse and neglect and to ensure the positive growth and development of children. As a result, our efforts have centered on finding the most effective means of assisting families who are at risk of abuse and neglect so that they have a chance for a better future for themselves and their children.

Program Purpose

Help Me Grow is a prevention program for all children who are experiencing the developmental challenges of growing up. Children who are facing behavioral, learning and other developmental difficulties are connected to local programs. *Help Me Grow* trains parents, pediatric and other providers to recognize the early signs of developmental problems and to contact *Help Me Grow* when they have a concern.

Contribution to Population Result

Identifying young children with developmental and behavioral concerns ensures that they get connected to needed services, increasing their chances of success in school and beyond.

Children who are not identified and do not get the help they need are at greater risk for developmental and behavioral problems, health issues and learning disabilities. These children are also at greater risk for child abuse and neglect.

Many services exist that can help young children and their families. *Help Me Grow* ensures that children don’t “fall between the cracks”.

Information and support for families with children who are at risk for developmental delays is essential for success in school and beyond.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Key Budget Information | |
| Total Current Program Year Budget | \$637,264 |
| Funding as Percent of All Funding for Quality of Life Result | |
| Program Funding as Percent of Total Agency Budget | 4% |
| Budget Distribution: | |
| Federal | \$37,500 |
| State | |
| General Fund | \$599,764 |
| Capital Project Funds | |
| Other State Funding | |
| Other Funds (Not Federal or State) | |
| Percent of Total Current Funding Spent on Direct Service | 53% |
| Percent of Total Current Funding Contracted to Third parties | 66% |

Basic Program Facts

Help Me Grow is a prevention program that has provided information, education and referrals for 10,000 families since its inception five years ago. As a result of the *Help Me Grow* training and outreach efforts more children with behavioral and developmental challenges have been identified at an early age and connected to services that can help. More than 4,000 families have kept track of their child's development by using the *Help Me Grow* Ages & Stages Child Monitoring program. This service is provided free of charge to any family in Connecticut. *Help Me Grow* cultivates a network of providers across the state to ensure that services are relevant. Data and analysis of statewide resources are collected to identify gaps in service and capacity issues.

Performance Measures and Story Behind the Baselines

Summary of Story Behind the Baselines:

Performance Measure 1

| Identified prior to training | Identified after training |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 9% | 18% |

Identification of children with developmental or behavioral concerns doubled following the training provided to pediatric providers by *Help Me Grow* staff

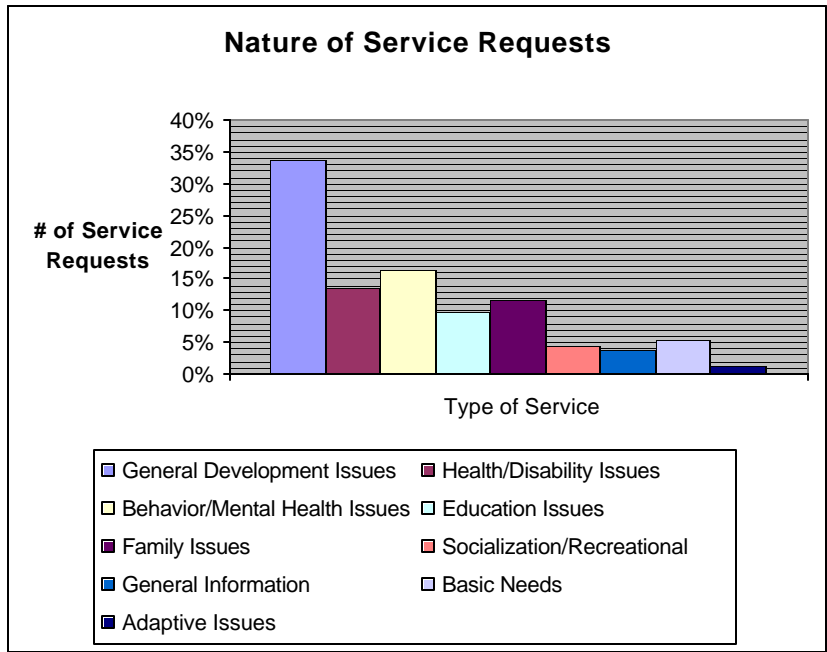
Story Behind Measure 1

- This finding is based on a two- year research project supported by The Commonwealth Fund. Data was collected on training provided to 150 pediatric and family practices in the state.
- Child health provider training was developed and implemented to enhance early identification of developmental and behavioral concerns for children birth to age five. The practices were educated about how to use the *Help Me Grow* program and conduct developmental screens.
- Study concluded that pediatric and family practice providers responded positively to the on-site training and the *Help Me Grow* program.

Performance Measure 2

10,000 calls were made to *Help Me Grow* from parents, pediatric and other providers who were concerned about a child's behavior, learning or development in the past four years.

Story Behind Measure 2

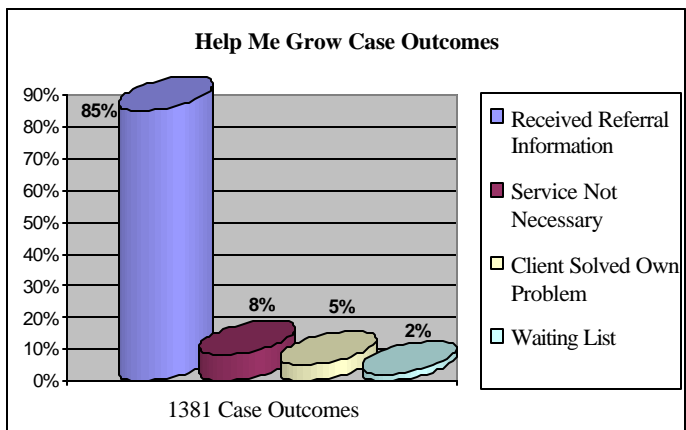


- 34% of the calls were about child development, 17% related to behavioral or mental health concerns, 35% were for health, disability, education and family issues.

Performance Measure 3

86% of families received referrals for services and information.

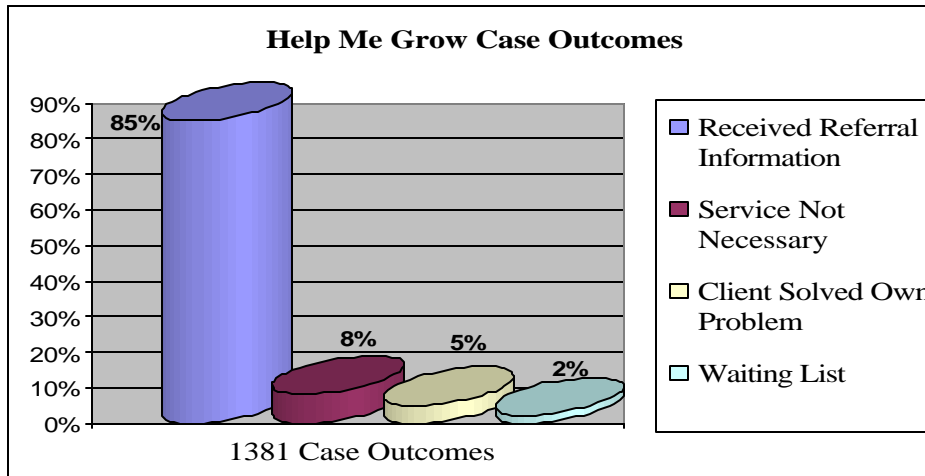
Story Behind Measure 3



- Out of a sample of 1381 families 86% received referrals for services and information.

CTF: Help Me Grow

- Help Me Grow staff researches available services for each case and provides follow-up to ensure that the child is successfully connected to the most appropriate service.



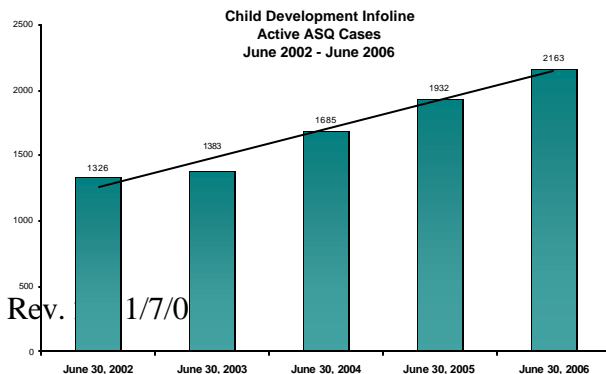
- *Help Me Grow* staff researches available services for each case and provides follow-up to ensure that the child is successfully connected to the most appropriate service.
- Out of a sample of 1381 families 86% received referrals for services and information.
- Help Me Grow staff researches available services for each case and provides follow-up to ensure that the child is successfully connected to the most appropriate service.

Performance Measure 4:

2,163 families kept track of their child’s development by using the *Help Me Grow* Ages & Stages Monitoring Program in 2006.

Story Behind Measure 4:

- There has been a 63% increase in enrollment in the Ages & Stages program



CTF: Help Me Grow

since 2002.

- This includes more than 400 families that have enrolled in the Ages & Stages program since 2004.

Partners and Their Roles

The Children's Trust Fund, *Help Me Grow* program partner with:

- The State Departments of Mental Retardation, Education, and Public Health to contract with the United Way/211 to administer the Child Development Infoline.
- The Commonwealth Fund, Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut and the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics have provided funding for research and program development efforts.
- More than 400 community-based providers attend Help Me Grow networking meetings and provide the needed services in the community statewide.

What do you propose to do to improve performance in the next 3-5 years and why?

- Distribution statewide of Ages & Stages Child Development Kits at four month well child visit to all pediatric practices to encourage universal monitoring of development by parents.
- Provide all families and caregivers with information about child development, prenatal through age 8.
- Increase the number of parents, pediatric and other providers who identify children at risk for developmental and behavioral delays.
- Increase the number of people who contact Help Me Grow when they have a concern about how a child is developing.

To do this we propose hiring additional staff (we presently have four full time positions and have reached our capacity) to perform the core functions of the Help Me Grow program,

- Train parents, pediatric and other providers how to use *Help Me Grow* and how to conduct developmental screens.
- Provide care coordination for families and connect them to appropriate services.

CTF: Help Me Grow

- Manage the Ages and Stages program and provide timely results to parents who participate.
- Maintain an up to date and thorough data base of all programs across the Connecticut that can be of value to the families.

Appendix A, Data Development Agenda:

We intend to enhance the three databases that support the Help Me Grow program. This will enable us to provide more information and support for families. It will also help us provide the State with more timely and in depth data on the needs of the target populations and the gaps and barriers they experience in obtaining services.

The three areas are:

1. Currently Help Me Grow uses the United Way of CT/211 database (REFER) to find services. This database was developed for generic information and referral services (I&R). REFER does not provide the level of detail required by the staff who respond to Help Me Grow callers at the Child Development Infoline. Help Me Grow needs to customize the REFER database. A modified REFER database will provide extensive information that can be shared with both families and providers seeking assistance for children.
2. Child Development Infoline, the access point for Help Me Grow, has an automated client tracking system known as DOC (Database of Children). DOC collects demographic information, reason for the call, actions taken to assist the caller and outcome of the case. The ability to collect gaps and barriers experienced by families needs to be added as a component of the DOC client tracking system..
3. Help Me Grow also has a client tracking system for families who use the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) to monitor their child's development. The tracking system collects demographic and referral information on participating families. The tracking system needs to be expanded to include the Social-Emotional component of the ASQ system. Enhancement of the database will better inform policy makers about the needs of children in Connecticut.

Appendix C, Information and Research Agenda

Appendix A identifies the three databases used by the Help Me Grow program and describes the enhancements needed to be more supportive of families and to inform policy makers on the needs of families who have young children.