Initiative background, overview & goals

Help Me Grow is a national model that builds a system of collaboration and coordination across early childhood and health sectors to assure that children at risk for developmental delay are identified and receive the services they need. Rather than providing direct services, Help Me Grow focuses on enhancing existing services and resources for children 0 – 5 years.

Key partners

- The Swindells Resource Center at Providence Health and Services
- Help Me Grow National
- Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties
- Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program
- Early Learning Hubs, Early Childhood Providers, Pediatric Clinics

What’s been done so far

Health Share began funding Help Me Grow Oregon in 2017 to ensure children at risk for developmental and behavioral issues are linked to a triaged menu of resources through a centralized access point. And while developmental screening is important, we know that what happens after screening is even more critical.
The regional Help Me Grow system:

- Provides information, support and outreach to families, community organizations, and health care providers
- Manages a centralized phone line connecting families and clinicians to culturally relevant clinical, educational and community resources
- Tracks referrals and closes feedback loops with primary care
- Provides ongoing data collection and analysis to help identify gaps in resources and barriers to care

Health Share also began funding a Help Me Grow liaison in each county Early Learning Hub, who acts as a developmental specialist, compiling and building upon existing resources for a regional early childhood database, and providing developmental promotion activities in the community.