

STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT ALL YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network

WHY DO WE NEED STRONGER EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS?



Research clearly demonstrates responsive, nurturing relationships in safe, engaging environments throughout the earliest years of life (starting prenatally) are at the foundation of healthy development and lifelong success. An early childhood comprehensive system is defined as an organized, purposeful partnership of interrelated and interdependent agencies/organizations, representing health, mental health, social services, families and caregivers, and early childhood education, collaboratively coordinating effective systems of care for children from birth to kindergarten entry.



WHAT IS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS COLLABORATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION NETWORK?



The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN) is a strategic effort to identify ways to accelerate improvement in early childhood systems, resources and coordination across sectors so that all children can achieve optimal and equitable early childhood developmental health outcomes. In partnership with the ECCS CoIIN Coordinating Center, 12 states and 28 local communities work to both improve systems, processes, structures and norms and generate innovative solutions. The ECCS CoIIN initiative is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and informs and contributes to this national effort, as well as advances state and local early childhood system coordination efforts.



WHAT APPROACHES ARE BEING UTILIZED IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS COLLABORATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION NETWORK TO STRENGTHEN EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS?

Develop and maintain partnerships and network

How: Expand the breadth of partners working to advance collaboration, foster effective collaborations, and promote contribution and impact towards a common vision of optimizing child developmental health

Provide backbone support & mechanisms for connections and communication between State and community

How: Provide state-level support to community leaders and organizations to innovate, test and spread improvements resulting in a more efficient and coordinated system that supports optimal child development

Implement capacity building efforts to promote and support early childhood

How: Use national resources, like the CDC's milestone tracker mobile app, to engage families and communities about child developmental health, the importance of developmental screening, and ways to support their optimal development

Create early childhood systems infrastructure, improvement and sustainability

How: Improve processes between, and across, early childhood providers to allow for seamless connection to services and optimal coordination that support the healthy development of all children

Advance policies and mobilize funding to sustain systems improvement

How: Work with community partners to identify the trainings and resources needed to develop and implement policies that will solidify, institutionalize and formalize responsive early childhood systems

Strengthen family partnerships

How: Involve family members from the start as experts and equal partners in co-design processes, programs and services that support and promote child developmental health.



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$5,448,329 with 0 percentage financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov).



EARLY CHILDHOOD IN INDIANA



CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

Promoting & Supporting Early Childhood Development

Help Me Grow (HMG)

- Collaboration with **Help Me Grow** to collect and analyze Social Determinants of Health data
- **Help Me Grow** inclusion in the Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning State plan
- Continued partnership with 211 will support the implementation of **Help Me Grow**. Leveraging this partnership will be key in the implementation of **Help Me Grow** and the resources that 211 provides. The data system will enhance the services already provided by MOM's Helpline.
- Developed **Help Me Grow** Standard Operating Procedure manual and a Resource Manual for HMG
- Brought and built **Help Me Grow** Indiana to help with care coordination, resource, referral, and feedback
- Continued to build a more robust data system for central intake within Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- Created an online referral form for families to access and connect to **Help Me Grow** communication specialist and receive and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)
- Building an ASQ Online Application Programming Interface (API) with Brooks Publishing and Indiana State Department of Health Data System
- Family communication rack cards were developed by **Help Me Grow** Indiana

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

- Modification of **Learn the Signs. Act Early.** materials to include state-specific resources
- Collaboration with a local Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) office in the target community to ensure that every WIC family is provided with the **Learn the Signs. Act Early.** materials. Help Me Grow and ASQ materials were included in WIC welcome packets.
- State team leaders have an existing relationship with the state's [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Learn the Signs. Act Early. Ambassador program](#). Indiana has modified the back covers of the developmental milestones booklet and pamphlet to include state-specific resource information. These materials are distributed to families in the Local Communities five zip codes. The materials are placed in doctors' offices, WIC clinics, and preschools within the zip codes. These materials help empower our families to understand their children's optimal development.
- Multiple state agencies through consensus are using **Learn the Signs. Act Early.** materials as the primary source of education for families around child development and milestones
- **Learn the Signs. Act Early.** library training provided
- Marion County library system has implemented the **Learn the Signs. Act Early.** materials into their libraries and early childhood system
- Integration of these materials and common language into statewide trainings conducted by the **Learn the Signs. Act Early.** ambassador



EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS

Infrastructure, Improvement, and Sustainability

Indiana continues to expand Parent Café throughout the state. The Indiana Department of Health has developed a new section within the Maternal and Child Health Division, Community Building and Systems, to continue working on early childhood systems building work in our state. Indiana continues to grow our state meeting infrastructure by adding a facilitator and more partners and will continue after the ECSS grant funding.

FAMILY LEADERSHIP

Parent Cafes

- Monthly Parent Cafes in the Local Communities: Expansion of Parent Café statewide, using Title V dollars and through other state agencies using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars
- Hosting Parent Café trainings for providers and family members, which has led to café expansion within the Local Communities five zip codes
- Expansion of Parent Café implementation from a local level throughout the state

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Policies

- State team is developing a Standard Operation of Procedure (SOP) for implementing the ASQs in the WIC clinics
- Access to specific data has allowed the team to more accurately identify policy changes necessary for success



Primary Contacts:

ECCS Impact State Coordinator:

