



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Carrie
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Rheingans
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
Jennifer Conlin
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Help Me Grow (HMG) Michigan, through Clinton County RESA
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
1013 S US Highway 27 Suite A, St Johns, MI 48879
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
This funding will pay for early childhood services across all 83 Michigan counties.
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Every Michigan House district has families living in them that receive Help Me Grow services for their children.
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
Help Me Grow Michigan is a data-driven connector of early childhood services all across Michigan. Housed in Clinton County RESA, Help Me Grow has local affiliates in 34 counties, and a state office that provides support to the remaining 49 counties.

Help Me Grow's model puts families in the driver seat of early childhood success by connecting them to services for their child that are located in their community through

HMG's unique hotline (think 2-1-1 for early childhood services), and helps parents assess their children to determine if they are falling behind peers in their age range through developmental screening tools. HMG doesn't stop once they've connected families with early childhood services; they stay in-touch with those parents throughout their child's life until they get to Kindergarten.

This funding will go to assist Help Me Grow in expanding the number of local affiliates located throughout the state and help communicate with more families about the early childhood services that are available to them. (See attached overview)

A great example of a local affiliate is Washtenaw Help Me Grow - www.helpmegrowwashtenaw.org.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

2600000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["Federal","State","Local","Private"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

N/A

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

10/1/25-9/30/26

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

Helping children thrive from birth to five.



Help Me Grow Michigan

Help Me Grow brings communities together to ensure every child gets the best start in life, with Care Coordinators helping families access the support they need when they need it. Here's how it works:

Connecting Families to Resources

We connect families to all the early childhood resources available in their community, making it easy for them to get the support they need.

Identifying Delays Early

We provide free developmental screenings for children 0-5 to track milestones, catch delays early, and connect families to support right away.

Staying in Touch

We don't just stop after connecting families with resources; we follow up to make sure everything's going smoothly and adjust support as needed.

Putting Families First

Parents and caregivers know their children best, so we work with them to set goals and make plans for their kids' well-being.

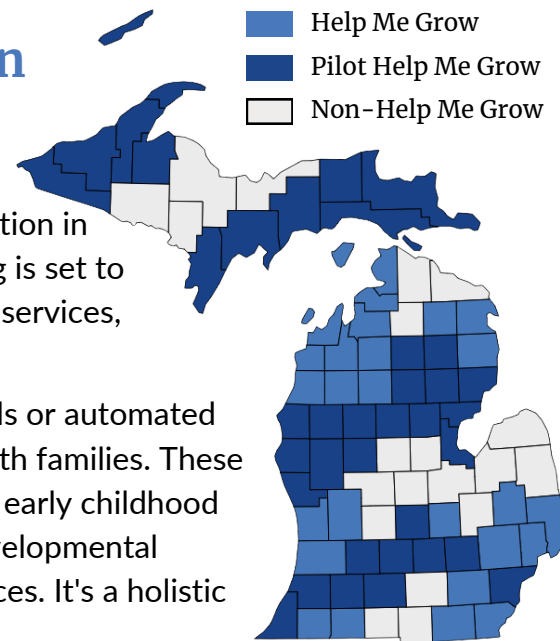
By leveraging existing resources and collaborating, Help Me Grow helps communities **build a brighter future for all children.**

Our Vision for Help Me Grow Michigan

In Michigan, Help Me Grow has strong support from local communities, offering care coordination services in **63 counties** statewide. MDE currently funds a pilot supporting care coordination in 37 counties (identified by dark blue on the map), but this funding is set to expire in 2026. To sustain, strengthen, and expand these critical services, additional funding is essential.

Help Me Grow's care coordination goes beyond mere online tools or automated processes; it involves real-life individuals who engage directly with families. These Care Coordinators help families navigate the complexities of the early childhood system, provide information, answer questions, follow up on developmental screens, and ensure families remain connected to essential services. It's a holistic approach to early childhood development.

The need is clear: every family in Michigan with young children should have access to a dedicated, high quality care coordinator to provide ongoing guidance and support.



"It's nice to know that if I need something or have any questions that I can call this number and someone will actually help me and call me back." – Dayna, Livingston

"You are the one person I know who will always call me back. Thank you so much!" – Ka, Ingham

Help Me Grow's Impact Last Year:

23,743 Families served by Care Coordinators

45,651 Developmental screenings completed by Help Me Grow & its partners

90% of Families said their needs were met by Help Me Grow

A Preventive, Upstream Investment

Michigan invests in so many crucial programs for young children; **Help Me Grow ensures families are aware of and can easily access these resources.** Our Care Coordinators play a vital role in this effort. Moreover, Help Me Grow's care coordination serves as a preventive, upstream investment. When combined with other early childhood services, it yields significant returns, with an estimated \$15 return for every \$1 invested. Connecting families to services early helps address developmental and behavioral concerns before they escalate, reducing long-term healthcare, education, and social service costs.

The latest Needs Assessment shows that Michigan families would benefit from a more connected early childhood system that makes it easier for them to find and access the services they need. Recognizing Michigan's value for local control, we tailor our efforts to meet the unique needs of each community. Through targeted outreach and empowering local initiatives, we ensure effective responses to family needs. Through our state office, we coordinate efforts, ensure consistency in care coordination statewide, and collect real-time data on service gaps and barriers, ultimately enhancing support for families across the state.

Investment Recommendation

To strengthen systems and support families statewide, we're seeking a total investment of \$2.6 million per year for the next three years:

- **Care Coordination Expansion:** \$1 million to strengthen and expand care coordination services, laying the groundwork for eventual statewide coverage. This funding will provide a 50% match for local care coordinators, ensuring ensuring families have access to dedicated professionals to guide them.
- **Statewide Outreach & Support:** \$1 million to enhance awareness and provide essential support, including \$600,000 for community outreach to inform families about resources, \$200,000 for technical assistance to help affiliates achieve fidelity, and \$200,000 for professional learning.
- **Project Management & Evaluation:** \$200,000 to facilitate project management, \$200,000 to evaluate the effectiveness of state investments in Help Me Grow, and \$200,000 for administrative and overhead expenses.

ROI Spotlight:
Oakland County



To learn more, contact Courtney Gupta at
cgupta@ccresa.org

Help Me Grow – Proposed Boilerplate

Sec. _____. (1) From the state school aid fund money appropriated under section 11, there is allocated for 2025-2026 only an amount not to exceed \$2,600,000.00 to Clinton County RESA as fiscal agent for Help Me Grow. Clinton County RESA may retain not more than 5% of the funding received under this section for administrative purposes and shall use remaining funding to support expansion and enhancement of Help Me Grow.

(2) Notwithstanding section 17b, the department shall make payments under this section on a schedule determined by the department.

(3) The funds allocated under this section for 2025-2026 are a work project appropriation, and any unexpended funds for 2025-2026 are carried forward into 2026-2027. The purpose of the work project is to support expansion and enhancement of Help Me Grow. The estimated completion date of the work project is September 30, 2028.