



## **Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS)/Help Me Grow (HMG) Overview:**

**Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems/Help Me Grow** is an early childhood systems integration initiative, working closely with state and local early childhood stakeholders ensuring a unified and coordinated approach to addressing the needs of pregnant women, infants and young children and their parents and families. ECCS/HMG works with public and private partners to facilitate linkages across programs, disciplines and sectors – prenatal/parent and child health, behavioral health, home visiting, Head Start, family support, social services, child care, preschool and elementary education, early intervention, special education, and child welfare. ECCS/HMG has a focus to expand the reach of early childhood developmental screening of children birth to age five. The focus is on increasing linkages to improve physical, social and emotional development during infancy and early childhood to support early learning and development, which in turn supports school readiness. ECCS goal is to eliminate the disparities to accessing early childhood services through systems integration, collective impact and improving the quality and availability of services at the state and local level.

### **ECCS/HMG strategies for early childhood systems integration is to:**

- Coordinate the expansion of infant/child developmental and social emotional screening in early care and education, pediatric primary care and community based-family support settings statewide.
- Simplify connections for pediatric/health care providers with available community services for the families of infants and young children in their care.
- Assist families with linkages to medical homes, home visiting, early intervention, early childhood education, family support services and other community programs.
- Identify system partners (providers and parents), communication, training and support needs
- Align ECCS/HMG with NJ Project Launch Initiative in Essex County.
- Align ECCS/HMG early childhood priorities with the priorities of the NJ Council for Young.

Children's Infant Child Health Committee

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