



July 26, 2019

Joint Statement on Help Me Grow

During the past two years, both the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) have heard from stakeholders who have expressed confusion about the "Help Me Grow" (HMG) name. Specifically, both agencies have received many questions about which program or programs the name applies to and how local partners should use the HMG logo. As the third year of a single statewide central intake and referral vendor begins, both agencies would like to provide some clarification.

HMG is an umbrella term referring to a system of supports for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. This system of supports comprises distinct programs independently administered by ODH and DODD. It currently includes both ODH's prenatal/early childhood Home Visiting program and DODD's Ohio Early Intervention program. HMG does not refer solely to one program. As the central intake vendor for both programs, Bright Beginnings will operate central intake under HMG name. When HMG is promoted and explained, information about both EI and Home Visiting will be presented.

ODH and DODD appreciate the feedback many of you have provided about this issue and look forward to working together on behalf of children and families. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your EI or Home Visiting program consultant.