

Help Me Grow



Department of
Children & Youth



The Early Intervention Central Intake Bulletin eNewsletter for Early Intervention providers March 2025

Welcome back to The Early Intervention Central Intake Bulletin! As always, thank you for all the work you do to provide high-quality Early Intervention (EI) services to Ohio families.

Updated EI Materials for available for download

Rebranded outreach and public awareness materials for Early Intervention are now available for download on at helpmegrow.org. Access posters, brochures, guidance documents, social media graphics, presentation slides, and more.

Helpful brand assets including color palettes, program logos, and the state's *Heart of it* All branding guide are also available for download.



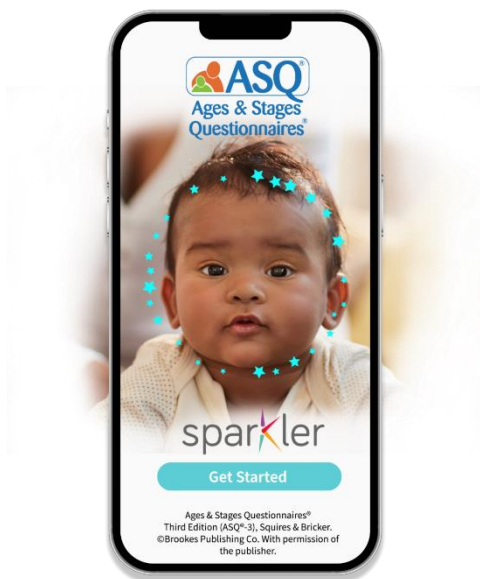
[Download EI materials](#)



Remember that professional referral sources can contact their local EI service coordination agencies to obtain print materials directly. To make sure your agency has all the materials it needs to provide, click the button below to complete the EI order form.

[Order EI materials](#)

Sparkler continues to soar!



As of February 27, **6,224 children** and **427 program partners** have been enrolled in Sparkler! So far, **3,864 ASQ-3** and **2,449 ASQ: SE-2 screenings** have been completed!

Sparkler, Help Me Grow's new platform for both families and program partners, has a built-in Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) that allows users to screen a child's developmental milestones quickly and easily. Families get personalized results and supportive services from a developmental screening specialist.

Families can learn more about Sparkler, its benefits, and how to sign up at helpmegrow.org/asq.

Share the ASQ Developmental Screening Program Using Sparkler with Families



We've developed a toolkit with ready-to-use materials to help you share information about Sparkler with families, **particularly those found not eligible for Early Intervention, those exiting Early Intervention and not transitioning to Part B services, and those with siblings in the home not involved with Early Intervention.** These resources can be printed or distributed electronically to increase awareness, engagement, and participation.

[Access the toolkit](#)

Social Media

We continue to partner with social media content creators across Ohio to spread the word about the Sparkler ASQ screening tool. Check out some of the newer posts below!



Candi

@candi_girl_mom



Maria

@columbus.moms.guide



Madison

@mamabirdhendry

How to learn more about Sparkler and the ASQ

[Our ASQ providers webpage](#) has all the information needed to get started with Sparkler!

Have questions about the ASQ developmental screening program and/or the Sparkler dashboard? Click the buttons below to register for a Zoom session or to schedule a 1:1 session based on your availability.

[Register for open office hours](#)

[Schedule a 1:1 session](#)

35 and counting: Family Connects Ohio Visits

Little boy Ace was born in January at Fisher-Titus Medical Center, one of 10 community partners providing the free universal newborn home visiting program, Family Connects Ohio (FCO).

Aces' mom Madison shared on [Facebook](#) that "...it was so nice to have a nurse come out, get vitals on me and baby...This will be an amazing program for first time moms! The education they provide is fantastic!"

Madison's family is one of **35** that have been served by FCO community partners statewide as of February 27!



Help us spread the word

Central Intake & Referral (CIR) continues to work with birthing hospitals and health care systems to leverage current collaborations and form new relationships with the goal of developing program enrollment strategies.

Updates and FCO promotional material can be found at helpmegrow.org/FamilyConnects. Select FCO print materials are available for order in English and Spanish through the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY).

[Click here to order FCO materials](#)

Web Referral Form

FCO and ASQ Online are now options on the updated web referral form.

CIR recently updated the web referral instruction videos for both families and professionals! You can watch the videos below! Be sure to share them with the families and referral sources you know through social media and your agency's website.



Outreach and Awareness



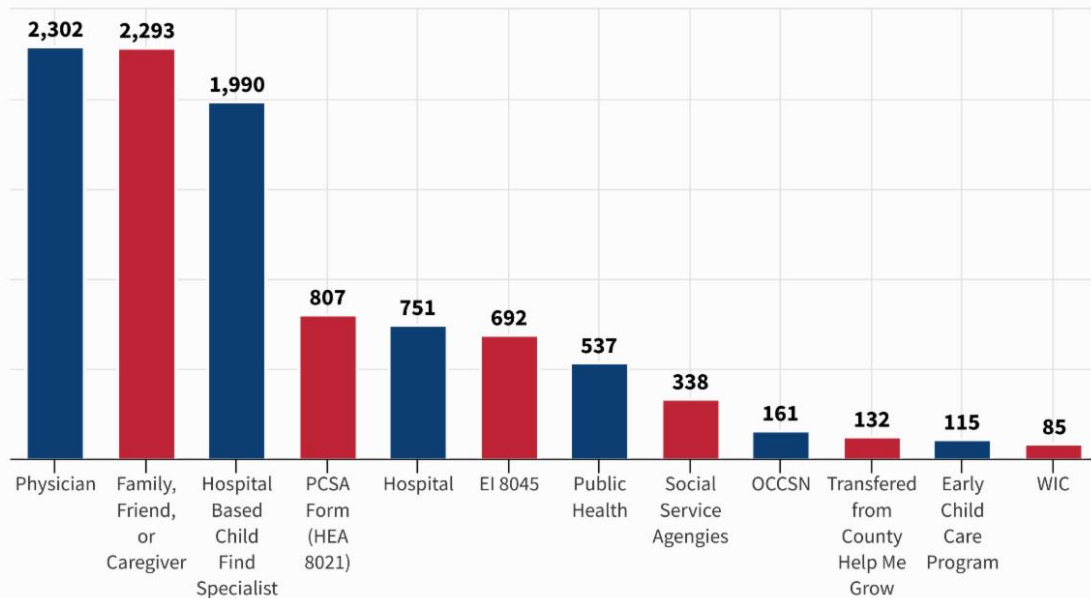
CIR has reached its goal of **60 Help Me Grow kiosks** deployed statewide! We connected with more libraries, locating kiosks in popular child and family program areas. The kiosks are bringing Help Me Grow access into the community so families can easily find information. Families can make a referral right at the kiosk!

Outreach staff completed **more than 2,000** activities in the second quarter of SFY25, including almost 500 meetings or presentations to educate professionals on the benefits of Help Me Grow services and how to refer.

SFY25 Second Quarter Referral Data

(October-December 2024)

10,203 Early Intervention System Referrals



CIR processed **10,203 system referrals** to EI in the second quarter of SFY25. Of those system referrals, **7,813 program referrals** were assigned to local EI providers across the state. From the Ohio Department of Health, CIR received **519 referrals for children with elevated blood lead levels (EBLL)** across 57 counties.

Other updates

OCALI Family Support Specialists

Get Connected Today!



Family Support Specialists provide families with information and resources so they can better support their child with a developmental delay or suspected delay.

- CONNECTION
- SUPPORT
- REFERRALS
- RESOURCES

Learn more at:

www.ocali.org/family-support-specialists



In Partnership With:



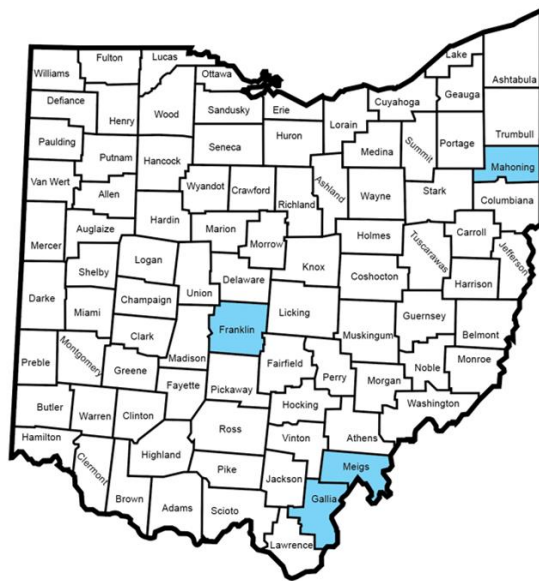
OCALI's Center for the Young Child, launched their Family Support Specialists pilot program to support parents of young children starting out on their early intervention journey.

Family Support Specialists are parents with lived experience that can support other families that may have similar concerns and/or are on a waitlist for a diagnostic appointment. The Family Support Specialist's primary goal will be to ensure the families they support will get connected to early intervention as

soon as possible and to support the family during their diagnostic journey. They can also share their personal experiences about raising a child with autism/developmental delays, discuss community resources and services, etc.

Family Support Specialist Pilot Target Locations

- The pilot will target three areas of the state where families are underserved due to cultural, economic, linguistic, and geographic barriers.
- The regions identified for this pilot do not have an active Autism Diagnosis Education Project team and/or are 1+ hours away from a diagnostic clinic
- A fourth family support specialist will support regions not targeted and/or for children 3-8.



Learn more: www.ocali.org/family-support-specialists

Do you have any questions regarding anything in this email?

Contact us at communications@helpmegrow.org.



[Follow us on Instagram](#)

Our new Instagram
[@brightbeginningshmg](#) offers
information about Sparkler, Help Me Grow,
early childhood education, Home Visiting,
Early intervention, and more! We invite
you to follow us today!

Past editions of this eNewsletter can be found at helpmegrow.org/providers.