

Help Me Grow



Department of
Children & Youth



The Early Intervention Central Intake Bulletin

eNewsletter for Early Intervention providers

July 2025

From all of our staff statewide, we welcome you to this edition of The Early Intervention Central Intake Bulletin!



Pictured above: The Help Me Grow Central Intake & Referral team at an all-staff meeting in May at Columbus Parks & Recreation's Whetstone Shelterhouse.

As always, thank you for all the work you do to provide high-quality Early Intervention (EI) services to Ohio families.

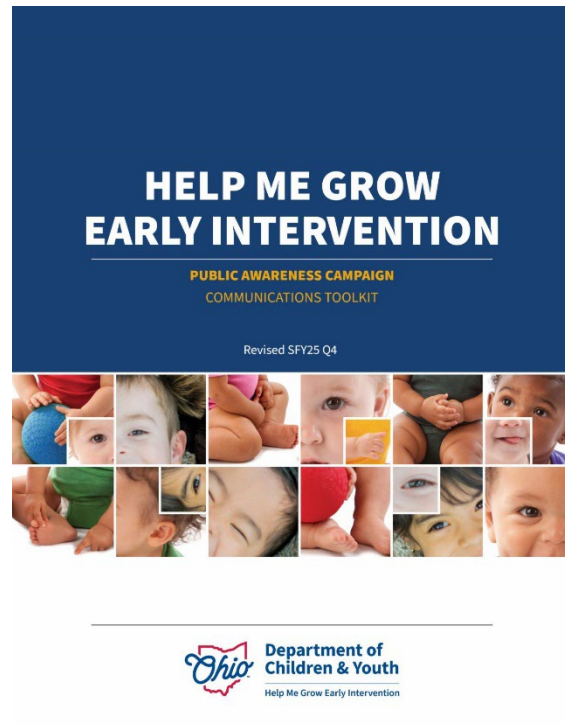
El Communication Essentials

Communications Toolkit

An updated version of the EI Communications Toolkit is available for download at helpmegrow.org. Just as before, the toolkit offers guidance on conducting outreach and public awareness activities, key messaging, and helpful uses for promotional materials.

What's new in this version of the toolkit?

- Ohio's Heart of it All branding
- Audience-specific messages
- Key messaging framework content
- Additional materials about specific developmental delays, elevated blood lead levels (EBLL), neonatal abstinence or opioid withdrawal syndromes (NAS/ NOWS), and hearing loss.



[Download the
Communications Toolkit](#)



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](#)

ASQ Developmental Screening Program



As of May 30, **14,186** ASQ screenings have been completed, and there are currently **641 Sparkler program partners**. Since the start of the fiscal year, 300 children were connected to Early Intervention or Home Visiting, and 183 children were connected to Preschool Special Education through the program.

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

ASQ Library Kits

CIR outreach staff have been visiting the children's departments of libraries statewide to deliver **developmental screening kits** intended for use alongside the Sparkler App.



These kits include items to help with developmental screenings as well as instructions for downloading and using the Sparkler app. Families can check out the ASQ library kits for use at the library or at home.



Download the ASQ provider toolkit with ready-to-use materials to help you share information about Sparkler with families. These materials would be useful for **those found not eligible for EI; those exiting EI and not**

transitioning to Part B services; and those with siblings in the home not involved with EI.

[Access the toolkit](#)

Social Media and Advertising

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!



[Celia](#)

[@celiadw](#)



[Ashley & Brittany](#)

[@lovedby2moms](#)



[Jessie](#)

[@daily_dig](#)

Have you seen our billboards or bus advertisements in your community? Let us know! Snap a picture and send it to communications@helpmegrow.org



Outreach and Awareness

Outreach staff completed **2,192** activities in the third quarter of SFY25, including **254** meetings and/or presentations to educate professionals on the benefits of Help Me Grow services and how to refer.

Don't forget to share our updated **How-to-refer videos** linked below! They provide in-depth, yet easy to follow, steps for completing the web referral form for families and professionals.



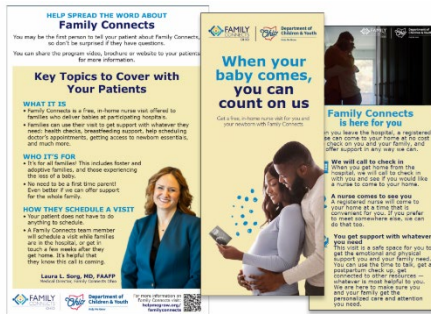
Coming soon: Automatic Eligibility Awareness Campaign

This summer, CIR will be implementing a public awareness campaign directed to medical professional with a focus on diagnoses that make a child automatically eligible for EI.

Folders will be delivered to pediatric physicians and specialists statewide packed full of Help Me Grow program information, including a new flyer that discusses automatic eligibility and the referral process.

The goal is to ensure medical professional are aware of diagnoses that automatically qualify a child for EI, including hearing loss, extreme prematurity, NICU stay > 30 days, very low birth weight at birth or within 30 calendar days after birth), etc.

Help us spread the word about Family Connects Ohio (FCO)



Current participating communities include: Erie, Huron, Greene, Darke, Fayette, Shelby, Mahoning, Trumbull, Noble, Guernsey, and Hamilton* counties.

*Babies must be born at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and reside in Hamilton County.

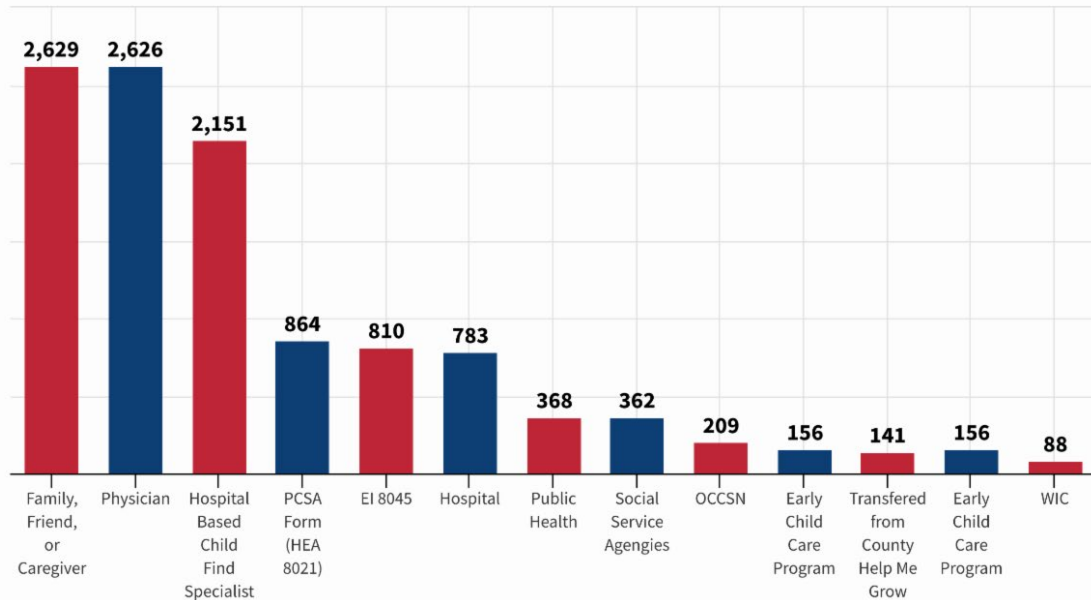
Family Connects is a free, in-home nurse visit provided within the first few weeks of a newborn's arrival. The nurse checks up on the baby's and the family's health, screens for potential postnatal health complications, answers questions about welcoming a newborn, and connects the family to resources within their community.

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).

SFY25 Third Quarter Referral Data (January-March 2025)

CIR processed **11,187 system referrals** to EI in the third quarter of SFY25. Of those system referrals, **8,633 program referrals** were assigned to local EI providers across the state. From the Ohio Department of Health, CIR received **337 referrals for children with elevated blood lead levels (EBLL)** across 59 counties.

11,187 Early Intervention System Referrals



Other updates

Parent & Youth Ambassadors



PARENT & YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Parent & Youth Ambassadors (PYAs) provide a single, in-person resource that will allow families to have their questions answered and access the support needed quickly. PYAs all have lived experience in social systems and will respond to inquiries (phone, chat, in person) by providing assistance for concrete supports, service referrals, and benefit navigation.

Each PYA represents a different service delivery area (SDA) in the state, with DCY aiming to grow the program over the next year in order for each SDA to have their own dedicated PYA.



Resource & Referral Agencies by SDA:

YWCA, Toledo	SDA 1 - Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Williams, Wood
CCRC Inc.	SDA 2 - Erie, Huron, Lorain, Sandusky, Seneca
Starting Point Inc.	SDA 3 - Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake
ECRC	SDA 4 - Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull
COAD	SDA 5 - Ashland, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Knox, Tuscarawas, Wayne
AC for Children	SDA 6 - Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Warren
YWCA, Lima	SDA 7 - Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Putnam, Van Wert, Wyandot
AC for Children	SDA 8 - Champaign, Clark, Darke, Fayette, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby
Action 4 Children	SDA 9 - Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Pickaway, Madison, Union
COAD	SDA 10 - Athens, Belmont, Geerssey, Hocking, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Washington
COAD	SDA 11 - Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton
YWCA, Mansfield	SDA 12 - Crawford, Marion, Morrow, Richland

Contact: To reach a DCY Parent & Youth Ambassador, call 844-234-KIDS (5437) or email Ambassadors@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

Did you know that the Ohio Department of Children and Youth offers Parent and Youth Ambassadors (PYAs) through Child Care Resource and Referral agencies statewide?

With real-life experience navigating social services, they offer support to families facing challenges like childcare, special education, and homelessness—no judgment, just help!

[Download the flyer](#)



[Follow us on Instagram](#)

[@brightbeginningshmg](#) offers information about Sparkler, Help Me Grow, early childhood education, Home Visiting, Early intervention, and more! Follow us today!

Do you have any questions regarding anything in this email?

Contact us at communications@helpmegrow.org.

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