



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 2159

S.P. 785

In Senate, March 17, 2020

An Act To Establish the Help Me Grow Program

Reported by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot for the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Resolve 2019, chapter 66, section 1.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 101-A is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 101-A**

4 **HELP ME GROW PROGRAM**

5 **§264. Help Me Grow program established**

6 **1. Program established.** The Help Me Grow program, referred to in this chapter as
7 "the program," is established in the department as a comprehensive, statewide,
8 coordinated system of early identification, referral and follow-up for children from
9 prenatal care up to 8 years of age and their families with an emphasis on increasing
10 access to the early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment services required by
11 Medicaid and on a schedule set by the department. In developing and administering the
12 program, the department shall maintain affiliate status with a national center that offers a
13 program that includes technical assistance and a model for strengthening early childhood
14 systems and services and meet any requirements necessary to maintain fidelity to the
15 program offered by the center.

16 **2. Staffing; coordination.** The department shall appoint a coordinator of the
17 program to work collaboratively across offices within the department, the Children's
18 Cabinet established in Title 5, section 19131, the Department of Education and other
19 applicable departments.

20 **§265. Duties of Help Me Grow program**

21 The Help Me Grow program shall:

22 **1. Expansion of services.** Increase the rate of children screened at all appropriate
23 locations, including, but not limited to, early childhood education facilities, child care
24 facilities, Head Start facilities, Early Head Start facilities, regional sites of the Child
25 Development Services System under Title 20-A, section 7209 and health care providers
26 to ensure access to early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment and other related
27 services to promote children's healthy development;

28 **2. Coordinated system.** Develop a coordinated system of early identification,
29 referral and follow-up services across early childhood education, child care facilities,
30 Head Start, Early Head Start, the Child Development Services System under Title 20-A,
31 section 7209, health care providers and family supports;

32 **3. Delivery of services.** Improve the delivery of services covered by early periodic
33 screening, diagnosis and treatment required by Medicaid and other related services to
34 promote children's healthy development;

35 **4. Centralized access point.** Develop a centralized access point for families,
36 caregivers and professionals to obtain information about early periodic screening,
37 diagnosis and treatment services. The centralized access point must be available by
38 telephone, the Internet and other communication platforms;

1 **5. Electronic directory; information dissemination.** Compile and maintain an
2 electronic directory of resources with respect to service providers and use appropriate
3 methods of communication to disseminate information in the directory to connect
4 families and caregivers to early intervention services, primary care and appropriate early
5 periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment services to children at risk; and

6 **6. Data collection.** Collect data necessary to align the program with evaluation
7 requirements from the national center described in section 264, subsection 1 as well as
8 identifying gaps in services by type and region and barriers to obtaining appropriate
9 services.

10 **§266. Annual reports**

11 The department shall submit any annual and evaluation reports provided by the
12 department to the national center described in section 264, subsection 1 to the joint
13 standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human
14 services and education matters, no later than December 15th of each year, beginning in
15 2020. The joint standing committees are authorized to report out legislation in any
16 legislative session.

17 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
18 allocations are made.

19 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

20 **Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142**

21 Initiative: Provides funding for one Social Services Program Specialist II position to be
22 the Help Me Grow program coordinator in the Department of Health and Human Services
23 Central Operations responsible for design, implementation and supervision of the intake,
24 resource and referral systems and the provision of support services to families, providers
25 and children.

26

27 GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
28 POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
29 Personal Services	\$0	\$25,745
30 All Other	\$0	\$6,547
31		
32 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$32,292</u>

33

34 FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2019-20	2020-21
35 Personal Services	\$0	\$77,234
36 All Other	\$0	\$19,640
37		
38 FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$96,874</u>

39 **Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142**

Initiative: Provides funding for 3 Social Services Program Specialist I positions to be the Help Me Grow program resource specialists in the Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations who will be the primary point of contact for families looking for early childhood resources.

GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	3.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$64,943
All Other	\$0	\$5,390
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$70,333

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2019-20	2020-21
Personal Services	\$0	\$194,830
All Other	\$0	\$16,169
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$210,999

Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142

Initiative: Provides funding for one Office Assistant II position to provide administrative support for the Help Me Grow program.

GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$15,929
All Other	\$0	\$1,797
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$17,726

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2019-20	2020-21
Personal Services	\$0	\$47,786
All Other	\$0	\$5,390
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$53,176

Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142

Initiative: Provides funding for the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with an evaluator to conduct an annual fidelity assessment to measure and track the State's progress with implementing the Help Me Grow program and contract with the national Help Me Grow program to provide technical assistance.

1	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
2	All Other	\$0	\$50,000
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>

5 **Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142**

6 Initiative: Provides funding for annual training of state personnel and stakeholders.

7			
8	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
9	All Other	\$0	\$16,500
10			
11	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$16,500</u>

12 **Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142**

13 Initiative: Provides funding for annual training of Office of Child and Family Services
14 staff.

15			
16	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
17	All Other	\$0	\$12,540
18			
19	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$12,540</u>

20 **Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142**

21 Initiative: Provides funding for annual fees for Ages and Stages Questionnaires Online
22 and the Help Me Grow National Center.

23			
24	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
25	All Other	\$0	\$23,500
26			
27	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$23,500</u>

28 **Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142**

29 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the information technology costs associated
30 with the system for tracking access to referrals and for the initial interfaces for the Help
31 Me Grow program.

32			
33	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
34	All Other	\$0	\$25,000
35			
36	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>

37 **Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142**

1 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for the information technology costs associated with
2 the Help Me Grow program.

3

4	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
5	All Other	\$0	\$33,230
6			
7	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$33,230</u>

8 **Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142**

9 Initiative: Provides funding for website, social media and print communication
10 campaigns within the Help Me Grow program.

11

12	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
13	All Other	\$0	\$50,000
14			
15	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>

16 **Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142**

17 Initiative: Provides funding for the Department of Health and Human Services to
18 contract with 211 Maine to ensure individuals are connected with existing child
19 resources, decide how 211 Maine can connect to the system for tracking access to
20 referrals and research how other states have used the 211 systems in connection with the
21 Help Me Grow program.

22

23	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
24	All Other	\$0	\$10,000
25			
26	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>

27 **Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142**

28 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the Department of Health and Human Services
29 to contract with the Help Me Grow National Center for technical assistance to accelerate
30 the ability of the State to fully implement the Help Me Grow program.

31

32	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
33	All Other	\$0	\$150,000
34			
35	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>

36

1	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,		
2	DEPARTMENT OF		
3	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2019-20	2020-21
4			
5	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$491,121
6	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$361,049
7			
8	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$852,170

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This bill establishes the Help Me Grow program in the Department of Health and
11 Human Services. The program is a comprehensive, statewide, coordinated system of
12 early identification, referral and follow-up for children from prenatal care up to 8 years of
13 age and their families. The program ensures access to early periodic screening, diagnosis
14 and treatment services and related services to promote healthy development and develop
15 a coordinated system of screening, referral and services. The bill establishes 5 positions
16 within the Department of Health and Human Services and provides funding for software
17 and program evaluation. The department must submit annual reports to the joint standing
18 committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services and
19 education matters.