



Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact Collaboration Improvement Innovation Network (ECCS Impact CoIIN):

ECCS Impact Purpose, Process and Aim:

The ECCS Impact grants is intended to build upon NJ's existing progress in the development of an integrated, comprehensive early childhood system of care for families from pregnancy to age eight. An early childhood comprehensive system is defined as an organized, purposeful partnership of interrelated and interdependent agencies/organizations representing health, mental health, social services, families and caregivers, and early childhood education to develop seamless systems of care for children from birth to kindergarten entry. These systems help children grow up healthy and ready to learn by addressing their physical, emotional and social health in a broad-based and coordinated way. NJ will actively participate using the ECCS Impact Collaborative Innovation and Improvement Network (CoIIN) approach. The ECCS Impact program will help to enhance NJ's comprehensive, coordinated preventive health system and demonstrate improved outcomes in population-based indicators that reflect children's developmental health and family well-being. ECCS Impact will continue to build and enhance state and local partnerships within EC systems that connect at-risk children/families to supportive services.

Population to Be Served: Parents/families with young children, birth to age five, residing in five NJ communities—Camden (Promise Zone), Cumberland, Essex (Project LAUNCH community), Middlesex, and Passaic where risks to children are high for poverty, health disparities, cultural barriers, poor maternal-child health outcomes, and infant/child developmental delays, child neglect/abuse, and low educational attainment.

Project Goals: 1) Five local communities were selected to participate in the ECCS Impact CoIIN over a 60-month timeframe (Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Middlesex and Passaic counties). Participating communities will show a 25% increase from baseline in age appropriate developmental skills among three year old children in the community. 2) Continue to strengthen state and local leadership/expertise by building upon our prior/current work on NJ-ECCS/Help Me Grow to ensure an integrated system of care to improve infant/ child outcomes, eliminate disparities, support parents and families, and strengthen communities.

Proposed Services: Through ECCS Impact, DCF (state backbone organization) will facilitate state and local partnerships across EC service sectors, and with parents/families. At the local level, the Central Intake hub (local backbone) in each place-based community will partner with the County Council for Young Children to learn/apply the ECCS CoIIN approach and collective impact process to improve results for families. Participation in ECCS entails 3 consecutive 18-month CoIIN cycles over a 5-year period. Using a two-generation approach, NJ will provide direct linkages for children and their families to primary health care, screening, and early intervention for developmental delays; and help address other child/family services and supports.

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Parent Overview of the The Infant-Child Health Committee (ICHC) and other Workgroups

Parent input is encouraged and valued in our early childhood systems development and implementation. We would like to invite parent leaders to participate in our quarterly Infant-Child Health Committee meetings and/or our subcommittee workgroups which meet throughout the year.

Infant-Child Health Committee (ICHC): Meets quarterly at the DCF Professional Building in New Brunswick.

ICHC Purpose and Priorities

Purpose: To make recommendations that support the alignment of services and systems that promotes the health and wellness of pregnant women, young children and their families.

Priorities: Family/Child Health & Wellness, Children's Social-Emotional Connections (Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health) and Children with Special Needs

The Workgroups:

Central Phone Line Workgroup: This workgroup provides feedback, and advisement regarding procedures and processes being developed for the early childhood central phone line (Help Me Grow).

Information Sharing Workgroup: This workgroup works to strengthen communication in early childhood systems throughout the state, to reduce barriers from connecting families to services; to increase access to existing child health/wellness education and community resources to parents, professional and stakeholders within the state.

Linking Protocol Workgroup: This workgroup explores and support processes that strengthen linkages, with home visiting, medical home, Early Intervention, early childcare, etc... (a subcommittee of the Physician/Health provider workgroup)

Physician/Health Providers Workgroup: This workgroup is advisory. It builds relationships with Physician/Health Providers, gathers feedback on procedures, policies and initiatives, linking with the medical home. (eg. *Home Visiting developmental screening policy, central intake and medical home linkages*)

NJ County Councils for Young Children: All 21 counties have established a County Council for Young Children (CCYC) to strengthen collaboration between parents, families and local community stakeholders with health, early care and education, family support and other service providers. For more information about meeting dates in your county go to:

<http://www.nj.gov/education/ece/njcyc/county/>

If you are interested in participating in any of these meetings, have any questions, or need additional accommodations please contact Nicole Hopkins at Nicole.Hopkins@dcf.state.nj.us or call at 609-888-7793. We will set up a time to give an overview of the particular meeting and our goals for the particular workgroup.

Aligned Initiatives of the ICHC:

- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS)
- Help Me Grow NJ (HMG)
- NJ Project LAUNCH (NJ PL)
- Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)
- Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant – health priorities

