



# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Help ALL of Our Children, Help Our Economy—  
Fund Help Me Grow<sup>®</sup> Florida (HMGF) at **\$4.5M** annually to provide needed services statewide.

## HMGF Benefits Our Children AND Our Economy

 HMGF is a coordinated system of supports that connects children and families to

- Child developmental and health services
- Virtual resources for children birth to 8
- Parenting tips, information, and resources

 The total economic impact of HMGF is **\$11.6M** annually through increased

- Sales and revenues
- Income
- Employment
- Lifetime earnings



**\$1 = \$7.62**

Every dollar invested in HMGF returns \$7.62 per year.<sup>1</sup>

*HMGF reduces costly duplications of services while meeting the needs of children and families.*

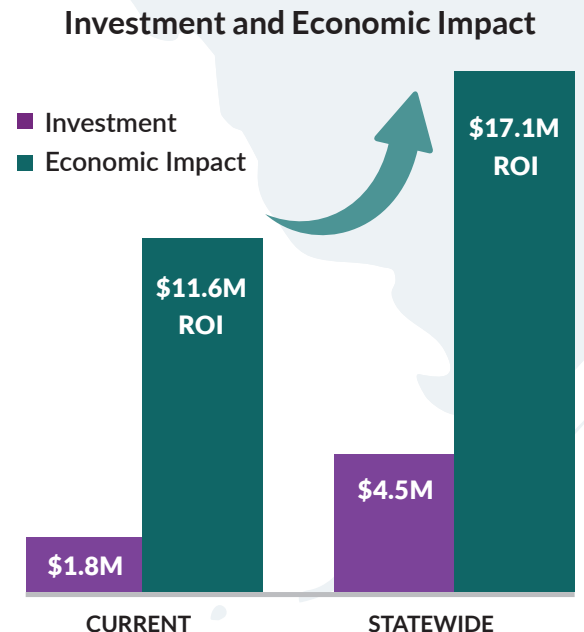
## But the Benefits Could Be Greater!

In 2019, HMGF served 31 counties.<sup>2</sup>  
If HMGF were available to children in all Florida counties:

The economic impact could rise to **\$17.1M** at an additional cost of only **\$2.7M** to the state.

These larger impacts would benefit Florida's children, workforce, and economy.

**90% of children** are successfully connected to services.



**FUNDING REQUEST:** Increase the economic impact from \$11.6M to \$17.1M by funding Help Me Grow® Florida statewide at \$4.5M. **\$1.8M Current + \$2.7M Additional = \$4.5M Statewide**

HMGF meets the needs of children and families through a coordinated system of supports that

- Connects children to the services they need
- Offers virtual resources for families with children birth-age 8
- Fills service gaps without costly duplication
- Answers questions and concerns about child development
- Guides families through free developmental and behavioral screenings
- Provides parenting tips, activities, and other useful information

## HMGF Pandemic Impact

**Families need Help Me Grow more than ever.** The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread loss of employment as well as school and childcare closures and has severely challenged the mental health of parents' and their children. This disruption to children's daily lives poses a risk to their health and development.<sup>3</sup> Help Me Grow is minimizing adverse health and emotional effects on children by linking families to educational, nutritional, physical, and mental health services.

As families continue to combat the effects of COVID-19 in their communities, we need to ensure that **all** families across Florida have an opportunity to receive comprehensive and coordinated Help Me Grow services for their children.

### One Family's Story

A grandmother with guardianship of her two grandchildren was struggling to find services to meet their basic and mental health needs. A Help Me Grow care coordinator was able to connect the grandmother with a local mental health agency that provided evaluations, medication management, and counseling for the grandchildren. The grandmother shared that her grandchildren's behavior improved dramatically since receiving services. The care coordinator was also able to refer the family to agencies that might be able to assist the grandmother with her past due rent.



<sup>1</sup>Harrington, J., M.R. Niekus, S. Whitney. Help Me Grow® Florida – Economic Valuation and Assessment Study. Final Report to Help Me Grow® Florida, November 2020. See: <https://www.cefa.fsu.edu/sites/g/files/upcbnu1851/files/Final%20HMGF%2011-9-20%20Clean.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Data are based on FY19-20 during which 31 counties implemented in HMGF—30 stated funded and 1 locally funded. Projected impacts assume continued state and local funding plus an additional \$2.7M state funds added to serve all counties.

<sup>3</sup>Karpman, M., Dulce Gonzalez, D., and Kenney, G.M. (2020). Parents are Struggling to Provide for Their Families During the Pandemic: Material Hardships Greatest among Low-Income, Black, and Hispanic Parents. Urban Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/parents-are-struggling-provide-their-families-during-pandemic>