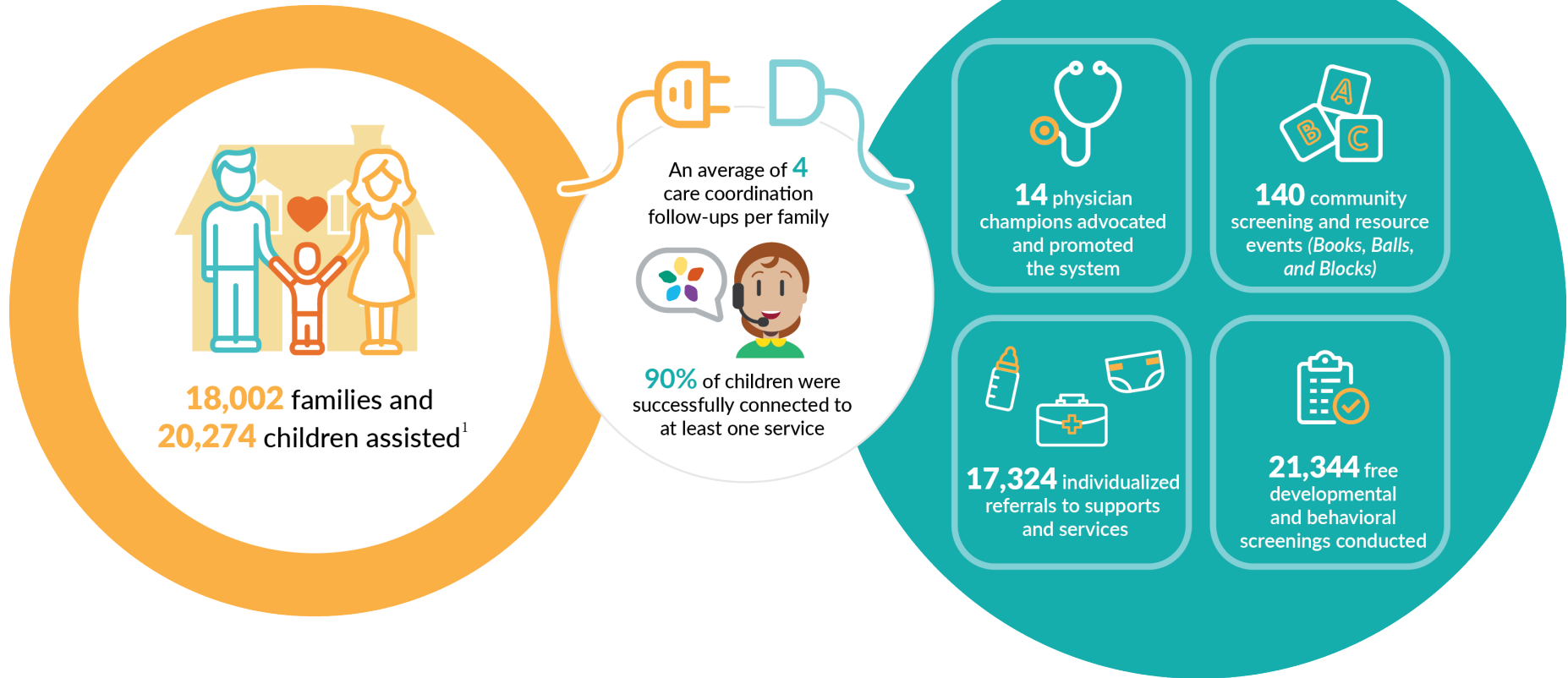


# FUNDING REQUEST:

Fund Help Me Grow<sup>®</sup> Florida at **\$4.5M** annually to provide needed services statewide.  
**\$1.8M Current + 2.7M Additional = \$4.5M Statewide**



## Help Me Grow<sup>®</sup> is helping children that are not typically supported

- **44%** of children served did not attend an early learning program and might not have otherwise received supports.
- **50%** of screenings showed a concern or need for monitoring that may not have been otherwise identified.
- **79%** of children received services before entering kindergarten.
- **75%** of children screened are Medicaid enrollees. Helping children overcome developmental delays early can reduce Medicaid dependency and costs.



# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

**Help Me Grow® Florida Saves Money!** Every dollar invested in HMGF returns **\$7.62** per year. The total economic impact of HMGF is **\$11.6M** annually through increased sales and revenues, income, employment, and lifetime earnings.<sup>2</sup>

## Families need Help Me Grow® more than ever.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread loss of employment and income, school and child care closures, and 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 here to help.

In order to mitigate the pandemic's harmful impacts, Help Me Grow® is helping parents and children navigate the current crisis by connecting them to the food, health, and housing resources they need.

**Help Me Grow® is minimizing adverse health and emotional effects on children by linking families to educational, nutritional, physical, and mental health services.**



## Help Me Grow® Family 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>The data shown in this report from the Help Me Grow® Florida dataset are cumulative averages across fiscal years 2016-17 to 2019-20. Data from 2012-13 to 2015-16 were excluded due to data inconsistencies during the earlier program years.

<sup>2</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>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>