



Washington

Project HOPE works to ensure equitable access to health services and healthy development opportunities for children under five and their families by partnering with states and local organizations on policies and programs that result in systems change.

Background

Since 2018, Nemours has been working with a diverse group of stakeholders to implement Project HOPE in Washington. Led by the Washington Department of Health and WithinReach, state and local partners are collaborating to focus on increasing access to services for children and families through the statewide spread and scale of the Help Me Grow (HMG) model. Help Me Grow is a model that works to promote collaboration across child-serving sectors in order to build a more efficient and effective resource and referral system that promotes the optimal healthy development of young children.

To ensure that community voice informs this work, WithinReach partnered with communities in Central Washington to convene a focus group of stakeholders. Through sharing their experiences around levels of access to services for children and families, these community members will help shape the priorities for the expansion of the HMG model in Washington.

Cross Sector State Stakeholder Group (CSSSG)

The Integration Workgroup serves as the CSSSG for Washington. This group is led by WithinReach, and includes representatives from:

- Essentials for Childhood
- First 5 FUNDamentals
- Public Health - Seattle & King County
- Skagit County Public Health
- United General District 304
- Washington Communities for Children
- Washington Department of Health
- Washington Department of Children Youth and Families
- Yakima Valley Community Foundation

Communities of Focus

Central Washington - Kittitas & Yakima Counties
Skagit County

For more information on Project HOPE in Washington:

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To support state efforts, Nemours provides support in the following Infrastructure Areas:

- Leadership
- Governance
- Communication
- Data
- Finance

Complementary Initiatives

In addition to Project HOPE, state partners are engaged in several other initiatives focused on improving the health and wellbeing of young children.

- Pritzker Children's Initiative
 - Funding from the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation allows Washington to expand needed state and community services for pregnant women and children up to age three.
- Preschool Development Grant Birth through 5 (PDG B-5)
 - The PDG B-5, awarded to the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) aims to strengthen and build integrated services across early learning and child welfare, including the expansion of crucial programs for children.

Community Engagement Activities

Since 2019, WithinReach and Washington Department of Health led activities to increase the capacity of parents and stakeholders to establish feedback loops and incorporate community voice in local/states initiatives.

Integrating Community Voice

Community stakeholders, including parents and child care providers, were convened by WithinReach to share their experiences around the levels of access to current services for children and families in Central Washington. This insight contributed to determining key priority areas for Help Me Grow Washington.



Achievements

- Increased community engagement with Central Washington and Skagit County led to new strategies around service delivery and community-based family services supported by a remote state infrastructure
- Developed innovative models on coordinated and integrated state and local systems of support for families
- Expanded the community-based satellite Family Resource Navigator role

Action Plan Strategies

WithinReach has begun implementing a comprehensive action plan to address several policies and health inequities. To assist in facilitating the spread and scale of the Help Me Grow model in Washington, partners are implementing strategies, including:

Infrastructure Areas: Leadership, Communication

Action Step: Provide technical assistance and training to four sub-affiliate partners, and on-board new Help Me Grow Washington members.

Infrastructure Areas: Governance, Data

Action Step: Planning for integrated technology and data systems centered in family and community voice.

Infrastructure Areas: Leadership, Communication, Governance, Finance, Data

Action Step: Launch Community Implementation Projects and Community-based satellite Coordinated Access Points in Central Washington and Skagit County.