

Funding Sources for Family Connects and Help Me Grow

September 2019

Several states involved in PN3 planning are interested in Family Connects and/or Help Me Grow as part of their work. In response to a request from a state, we worked with Family Connects and Help Me Grow to gather the information on funding sources for these programs within states and communities. As you can see, there is an interesting mix of funding going to support these efforts.

Family Connects' Guide on Potential Funding Sources

Family Connects International and local Family Connects programs have identified and used multiple sources of funding to support program development, implementation, and sustained operations. Few programs are sustained through a single funding source. The purpose of this brief is to describe the different types of funding to guide new and existing programs in their consideration of potential funding sources.

1. Medicaid Reimbursement

Several states and communities have been able to use Medicaid funding as a revenue strategy to contribute toward sustainable program operations. As Medicaid benefit plans vary from state to state, the potential for reimbursement for services also varies. Through the development of state plans and associated amendments, states may elect to cover specific component services. Exercising such state-driven Medicaid coverage authorities, North Carolina has allowed for reimbursement for specific clinical assessments through EPDT and Oregon has explored opportunities to expand the definition of targeted case management for infants to cover home visits provided through the Family Connects model.

2. Private Insurance

Private insurance companies have supported Family Connects through two mechanisms. First, some local implementing partners have worked with private insurance companies to incorporate Family Connects into a standard benefit plan. Second, some insurers have provided grants for program start-up or operation costs regardless of a family's insurance carrier. In these instances, the insurer has concluded that a grant that is not specific to their own customers nonetheless yields benefits. In other instances, grants may be an aspect of a company's charitable giving.

3. MIECHV Federal Funds

Family Connects is recognized by the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program as an evidence-based intervention eligible for inclusion in a State's MIECHV plan. States typically select from among the approved interventions and apply to MIECHV for funds for their implementation. Several states have selected Family Connects and fund communities' start-up and operation. Of note, Family Connects is identified as a screening program that triages entry into longer term home visiting programs. Thus, it provides a universal access point for a system of care that supports rather than competes with other programs.

4. State Grants

In support of early childhood education, several states have recognized the interconnectedness of health and educational readiness. This has allowed for joint ventures across public health and early childhood education funders in multiple communities implementing Family Connects. In such instances, local implementers have received direct support for program planning and implementation through block grant mechanisms based on annual program deliverables. Other state funding streams that should be considered, and are currently being explored, are Title V, SAMSHA, and CAPTA.

5. County Grants and City Grants

Several Family Connects communities have worked with their county or city government representatives to help fund the program. Similar to the state grants, county and city funding is provided typically as part of an early childhood development effort or in coordination of building a local system of care to help with community connections. In some instances, support is time restricted; in others it isn't.

6. Private Foundations and Philanthropy

Private foundations and philanthropic resources have provided funding opportunities to Family Connects sites throughout the country. They often serve as catalysts, providing funds for initial implementation and start-up and leveraging other funds. Often, foundations are able to provide support more quickly than other sources and present an opportunity for close engagement and collaboration.

7. Health Care Systems

Health Care systems support Family Connects in several ways. These systems may have a vested interest in providing direct support in service of containing other costs, such as emergency department utilization. In other instances, support may be indirect and offset program costs. Health systems may serve as an administrative home for Family Connects, allocate personnel for roles within a program, or facilitate integration into care delivery protocols.

8. Pay for Success

Currently, Family Connects is working with several communities around using Pay for Success as a potential avenue to help support program cost and implementation. These sites are currently in the planning phases and this method of funding is still being evaluated. This document will be updated after these planning projects have been completed.

Source: <http://www.familyconnects.org/>

Help Me Grow Revenue Sources

State - Department

Includes health (n=2), public health (n=1), health and senior services (n=1), human resources (n=1), early childhood/learning (n=2), child care (n=1), child welfare (n=1), education (n=1), social services (n=1)

State - Grant/Initiative

State - Unspecified

Federal - Child Care Development Block Grant (HHS)

Federal - Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

Federal - Early Childhood State Systems Grant (MCHB, HRSA)

Federal - Early Comprehensive Childhood Systems (ECCS) Impact (MCHB, HRSA)

Federal - Early Intervention (Part C of IDEA) (DOE)

Federal - Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) (MCHB, HRSA)

Federal - Pregnant & Parenting Teen Grant (OAH, HHS)

Federal - Preschool Development Grant (PDG) (DOE & HHS)

Federal - Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health) (SAMHSA)

Federal - Race to the Top, Early Learning Challenge (DOE & HHS)

Federal - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (DOA)

Federal - Systems Integration Grant (SAMHSA)

Federal - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (ACF, HHS)

Federal - Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant (MCHB, HRSA)

Federal - Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

Federal - Women, Infants and Children (WIC) (DOA)

Private corporation/Foundation/Non-Profit

Managed Care Organization

Source:

Personal Communication, Help Me Grow National Center, August 2019

<https://helpmegrownational.org/>

Collaboratives on this Reference Guide:

