



Community of Practice
Child Find Lunch & Learn



CaIECSE

California Early Childhood Special Education Network

Funded by the CDE



Implementation Leadership

Co-Executive Director- Dr. Scott Turner, East San Gabriel Valley SELPA
Co-Executive Director-Melanie Hertig, Irvine Special Education/SELPA
Project Coordinator-Marion Springett, Saddleback Valley USD



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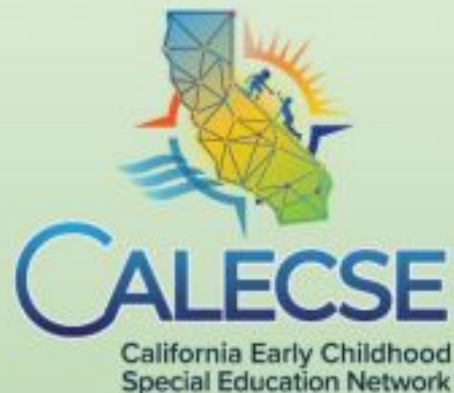
CalECSE.org



CalECSE is a new technical assistance project funded under the California Department of Education (CDE) that will support Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)s, County Offices of Special Education (COEs), and other Agency Partners in the areas of IDEA Part C to B Transitions, Preschool Assessment Practices, and Preschool Child Find by providing technical assistance, professional learning, and demonstration of tangible practices *that have been proven successful*.

The CalECSE Network will *leverage collaboration* amongst agencies, *disseminate resources*, *highlight existing exemplar practices*, and *provide direct technical assistance* to improve the capacity, knowledge, collaboration, and implementation of evidence-based practices across agencies throughout California.

The CalECSE Network is committed to *improving outcomes* for children and their families by *eliminating and addressing barriers* to successful transition for California's youngest children with disabilities.



CalECSE Network

SELPA Leadership
(ESGV SELPA and
Irvine USD/SELPA)



CalECSE
Coordinator(s)

Interagency
Collaboration
Exemplar(s)

Innovative and
Inclusive Practices
Exemplar(s)

Assessment Practices
Exemplar(s)

Assessment Team
Leadership
Exemplar(s)

Preschool Child Find
Exemplar(s)

Parent Outreach &
Support Exemplar(s)

Data Governance
Exemplar(s)

Geographic Technical Assistance Facilitators/Leads

TA 1

TA 2

TA 3

TA 4

TA 5

TA 6

TA 7

TA 8

TA 9

TA 10

TA 11

Presented by:

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CalECSE Preschool Child Find Exemplar Lead

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Child Find



What is Child Find?

Child Find is a process to “find” children who may have a delay in development or a disability.



Child Find Includes All Children

infants, toddlers, and preschoolers

birth to 21 years of age

public, private and tribal children

Highly mobile children

Homeless children

Migrant Children

Foster Children



Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

A comprehensive Child Find system ensures that all children who are in need of early intervention or special education services are identified, located and evaluated.



- Each Local Educational Agency (LEA) has a legal obligation (EC §56300) to actively and systematically seek out all individuals with exceptional needs, from birth through 21 years of age, including children not enrolled in public school programs, who reside in a school district or are under the jurisdiction of a Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA).
- Children are referred to Special Education one of three ways...
 - Community Agency/Preschool Referral
 - Part C to B transition Referral
 - Parent Referral

“Making connections with community partners has proven to be the most effective practice in identifying young children with special needs.”

Christenson and Sheridan (2001)

The Importance of Connections

- Developing relationships with community partners
- Promoting community partners by utilizing existing resources
- Establishing a long-term partnerships



Child Find is a Continuous Process





First 5 County Commissions

Children and Families Commissions



- Created in 1998, when voters passed Proposition 10, the California Children and Families Act
- Added a 50-cent sales tax on tobacco products sold in California.
- Funds raised must be used to support education, health and child development programs for pregnant women and children from birth through age five

Broadly, First 5's Focus on:

- Comprehensive Health & Development
- Early Learning
- Resilient Families

Locally, First 5's tailor work to their community's most pressing needs.

First 5 Association website links to each county's First 5 for details:

<https://first5association.org/county-first-5s/>





FIRST5
ORANGE COUNTY



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California Early Childhood
Special Education Network

Vision

All children reach their full potential

Strategic Plan Focus Areas:

- ✓ Well-child Visits, Developmental Screening and Referral to Services
- ✓ Quality Infant and Toddler Child Care
- ✓ Resilient Families
 - Prenatal to 3 (doulas, plans of safe care, home visiting, HealthySteps)
 - Engaged Neighborhoods, Family Ambassadors



FIRST 5
ORANGE COUNTY

Child Find Opportunities



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Special Education Network



Hospital Screening and Referral to Services

- Home Visiting & CalWORKS Home Visiting Services
- HealthySteps, DULCE



Learning Links

- Drop in program for caregivers/preschool children, multidisciplinary staff, learning through play provides child find opportunity



Child Care Providers

- First 5 OC working with providers and developing new providers, educating them on Help Me Grow OC, Regional Center, other services



Help Me Grow
ORANGE COUNTY

Help Me Grow

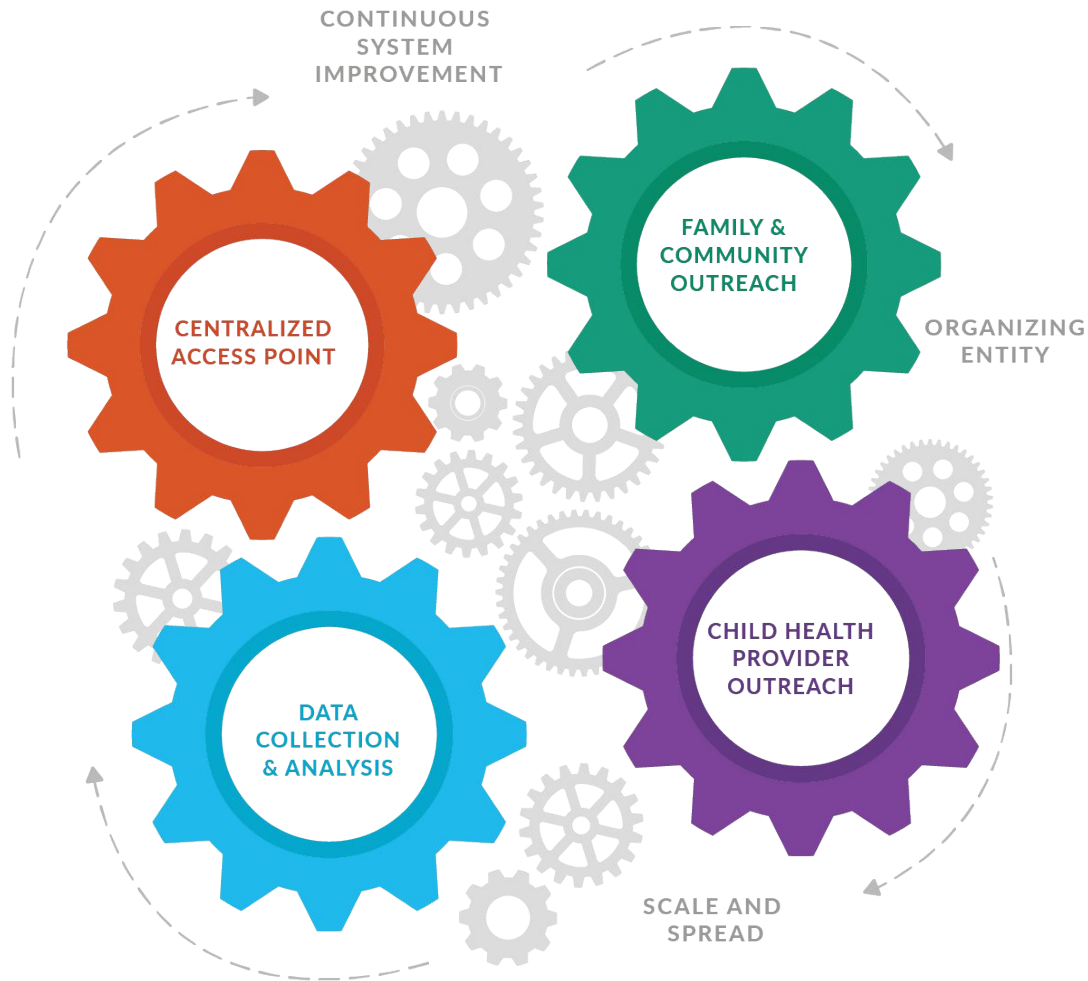


“We believe that all children should be able to grow, develop, and thrive to reach their full potential.”

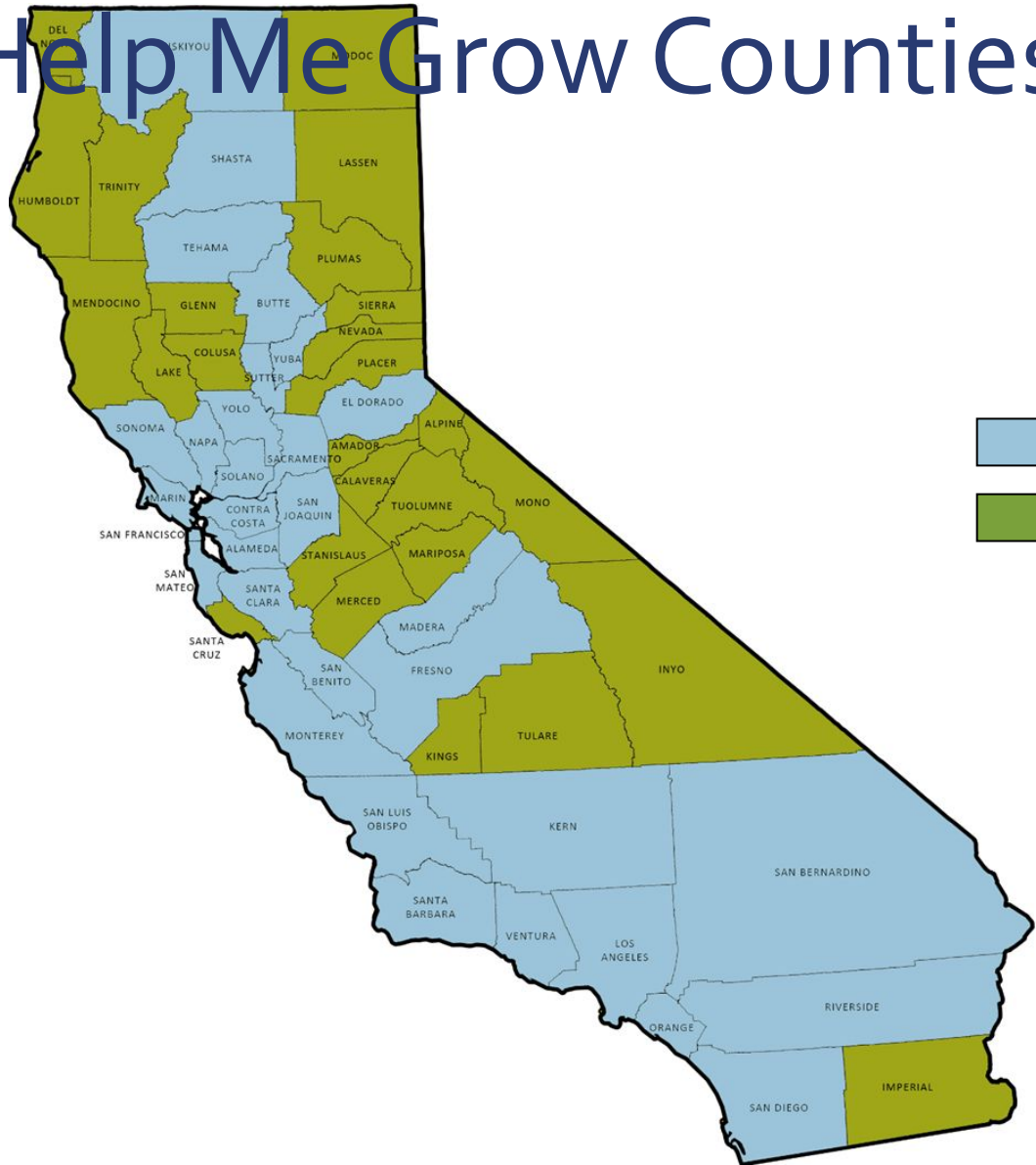
Help Me Grow advances developmental promotion, early detection and linkage to services to support healthy development of all young children.

Help Me Grow System Model

Cooperation of four core components



Help Me Grow Counties in California



Counties that have joined HMG California



Non - Help Me Grow counties

www.helpmegrowca.org

Help Me Grow's Unique Value



HMG is a **cross-sector, systems-based** approach that connects families to the resources they need to **help all children thrive**.



HMG builds and maintains a **network of community resources across sectors** and coordinates services across the network.



HMG engages in effective outreach to ensure a consistent **approach** among child health providers and community-based organizations.



HMG supports children in their **early years**, which have the longest-lasting consequences on children's health and well-being.



HMG services and resources are **flexible and targeted** to individual family served.



HMG builds **relationships** with families over time and serves as a **trusted resource** as children's needs change.

Established in 2005: Implementation Enhancements Over Time

Funded in 2005 to provide a comprehensive, countywide system for early identification, referral and care coordination of children at risk for developmental, behavioral and learning problems from birth through age eight.

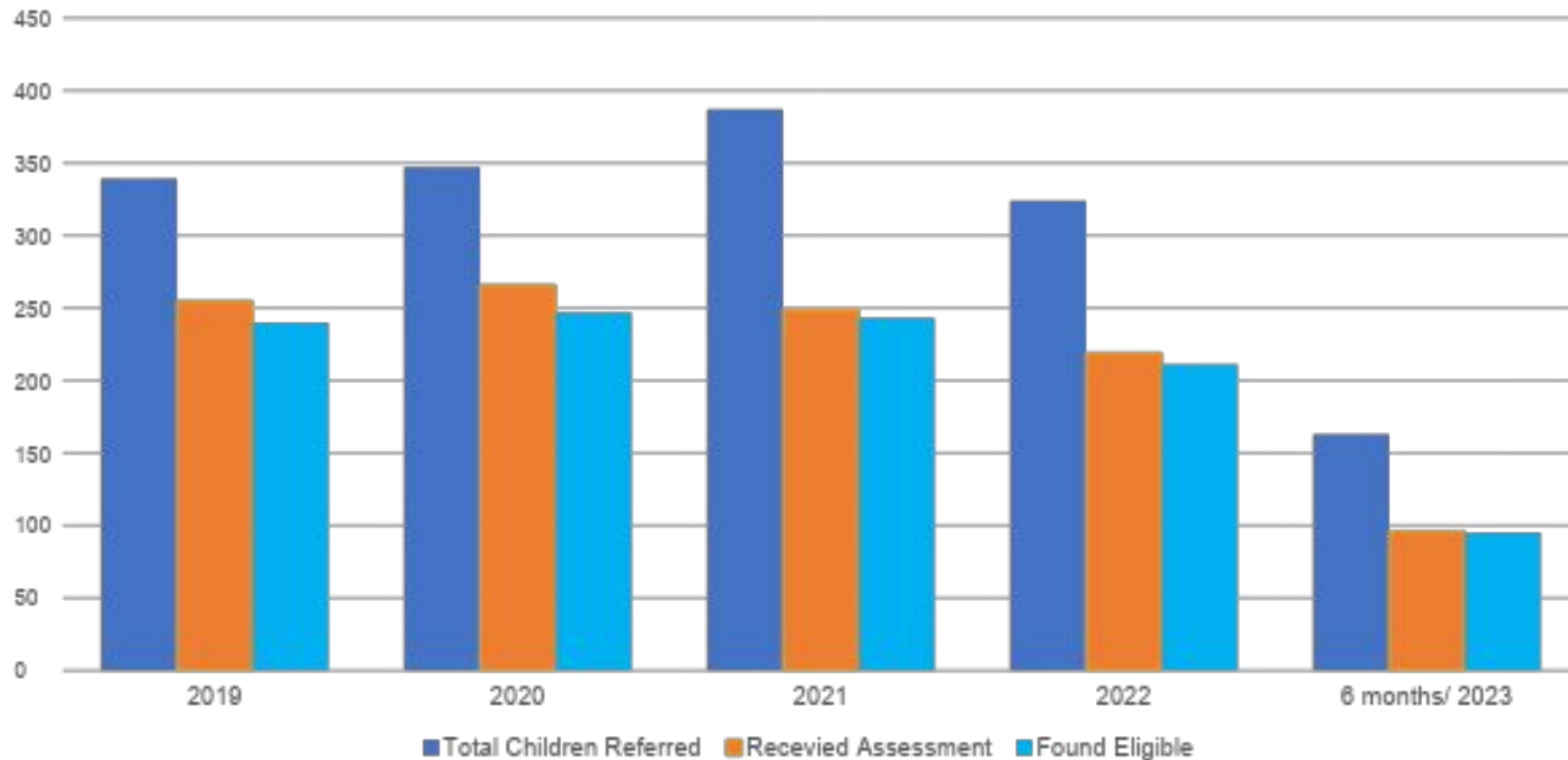
- ✓ **Centralized Access Point (CAP) since 2007**
- ✓ **Shared resource inventory – enhanced with services for birth to 9 years**
- ✓ **Networking events: Connection Cafes**
- ✓ **Trainings on screening tools for community and health care providers**
- ✓ **Parent facing events: Learn, Play & Grow @ Home!**
- ✓ **Linked data systems: STAR, ASQ Online, Registry and electronic health records**
- ✓ **Partnerships for health care provider outreach: Reach Out & Read, CHOC Health Alliance**

Child Find Activities

Help Me Grow assists in identifying, children who are eligible for Early Start or in of need special education. Finding and connecting these children are an important steps toward getting them the help they need to thrive in school.

- ✓ CAP - parents express concerns
- ✓ CAP - screening offered to every caller
- ✓ Flyers with QR codes distributed in community
- ✓ Screening available on HMG website/English and Spanish
- ✓ Quality Start: family child care providers
- ✓ Enrollment in dev. monitoring at time of discharge
- ✓ Screenings in the community – Wellness on Wheels
- ✓ OC Children's Screenings Registry

Direct Referrals & Outcomes



Regional Center of Orange County



In Service to People with Developmental Disabilities



**RC | EARLY
OC | START**
REGIONAL CENTER
OF ORANGE COUNTY



Are your children on track?



Regional Centers

Lanterman Act in 1969 established and provides regulations for Regional Centers

- 21 RCs in California
- Contracted by the State of California through the [Department of Developmental Services](#) to coordinate lifelong services and support for people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- 2021 served ~400K "person served"
- RCOC is the only Regional Center in O.C.
 - ~23K persons (Credit: <https://www.rcocdd.com>)

Early Start Program (0-3 years old)

- ~3400 children
- ~300-400 referrals/month
- Child Find activities

Source: Quynh Gredig, MS, MPH, BSN, RN
Regional Center of Orange County



RCOC Eligibility



- **Lanterman Act services**— To be eligible for services, a person must have a disability that begins before the person's 18th birthday, be expected to continue indefinitely, and present a substantial disability as defined in SECTION 4512 of the CALIFORNIA WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE. Eligibility is established through diagnosis and assessment performed by regional centers.
- **Early Start services**— Early intervention program for infants and toddlers (age 0 to 36 months) who are at risk of having developmental disabilities or who have a developmental delay may also qualify for services. The criteria for determining the eligibility of infants and toddlers is specified in SECTION 95014 of the CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE. In addition, individuals at risk of having a child with a developmental disability may be eligible for genetic diagnosis, counseling, and other prevention services.

Research shows that Early Intervention can improve developmental and educational outcomes.

Child Find Activity: NICU Discharge Meetings



Meetings with NICU staff, RCOC, and County of Orange PHNs

- Ranges from 1:1 meetings with social workers or discharge nurse planners to a full team
- Example: UCI team includes social worker, discharge nurse planner, PT/OT, nutritionist, HRIF coordinator, physicians
- Access to medical records
- Act as liaison when there is no scheduled meeting

Identify babies who meets Early Start Eligibility under Established Risk or High-Risk criteria

Identify families who need extra support

Reduce barriers to initiating services

Hospitals / NICUs

CHOC Orange

CHOC Mission

Kaiser Anaheim

UCI

Saddleback

Fountain Valley

OC Global



Source: Quynh Gredig, MS, MPH, BSN, RN
& Regional Center of Orange County

Contact Us!



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California Early Childhood
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