

PRIORITY AREA: CHILDREN'S HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

Desired Outcome 3: Children achieve optimal developmental, behavioral and social-emotional health

★ Community-Level Impacts:

Decrease in percent of children entering school who are vulnerable or at-risk in one or more developmental domains.

Objective 3.1

Improve the **system** for identifying children's health and developmental concerns and linking families to early intervention services.

Strategy 3.1a

Lead or support a multi-disciplinary effort to establish a **coordinated system for screening and early intervention** in Merced County, (e.g., Help Me Grow (HMG) or a comparable model).

Key Activities	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4
• Select a lead convener to facilitate the planning process.				
• Convene interested partners, assess strengths and gaps in current screening and early intervention practices and programs, and develop components of a coordinated system in Merced County including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Outreach to providers, community outreach, centralized access and data 				
• Implement a coordinated system for screening and early intervention with partners				
• Decrease critical service gaps by allocating funding for direct service contracts that utilize F5 funding to leverage/bring in additional funds for early intervention services.				
• Integrate developmental screenings as required program and evaluation activities into all direct service contracts.				
• Provide training and technical assistance on implementing and/or accessing components of the coordinated system for the screening and early intervention system.				
• Work with other funders, organizational leaders and policymakers to identify long-term, sustainable strategies for expanding, coordinating, and funding the coordinated system for screening and early intervention				
• Lead or support social marketing efforts that promote developmental screening and early intervention.				