

CHAPTER 1064**HELP MAINE GROW SYSTEM****§3921. Help Maine Grow System established**

1. Help Maine Grow System established. The Help Maine Grow System, referred to in this chapter as "the system," is established in the department as a comprehensive, statewide, coordinated system of early identification, referral and follow-up for all children from prenatal care up to 8 years of age and their families. The system must emphasize:

A. Increasing access to the early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment services required by Medicaid on a schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics or its successor organization; and [PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

B. In support of the Department of Education's child find efforts, increasing access and referrals to early intervention services as established and required pursuant to Title 20-A, sections 7209 and 7252-A. [PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

In developing and administering the system, the department shall maintain affiliate status with a national center that offers a system that includes technical assistance and develop a cross system model for strengthening early childhood systems and services to meet the needs of children and families and meet any requirements necessary to maintain fidelity to the system offered by the national center.

[PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

2. Staffing; coordination. The department shall provide staffing services necessary to meet the needs of children and families and to work collaboratively across offices within the department, the Children's Cabinet established in Title 5, section 19131, the Department of Education and other applicable departments.

[PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).

§3922. Duties of system

The system shall: [PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

1. Expansion of services. Increase the percentage of children screened for developmental, social or emotional issues at all appropriate locations, including, but not limited to, early childhood education facilities, child care facilities, Head Start facilities, Early Head Start facilities, regional sites of the Child Development Services System under Title 20-A, section 7209, subsection 3 and health care providers to ensure access to early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment and other related services to promote children's healthy development. For purposes of this section, "Head Start" means a program operated under 42 United States Code, Sections 9831 to 9852c and "Early Head Start" means a program under 42 United States Code, Section 9840a;

[PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

2. Coordinated system. Develop a coordinated system of early identification, referral and follow-up services across early childhood education, child care facilities, home visitor services as defined in section 3931, subsection 2, paragraph P, Head Start, Early Head Start, the Child Development Services System under Title 20-A, section 7209, subsection 3, health care providers and family supports;

[PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

3. Delivery of services. Improve the delivery of services covered by early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment required by Medicaid and other related services to promote children's healthy development;
[PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

4. Centralized access point. Develop a centralized access point for families, caregivers and professionals to obtain information about early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment services. The centralized access point must be available by telephone, the Internet and other communication platforms;
[PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

5. Electronic directory. Compile and maintain an electronic directory of resources with respect to service providers and use appropriate methods of communication to assist families and caregivers and connect them with early intervention services, primary care and appropriate early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment services to children at risk; and
[PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

6. Data collection. Collect data necessary to align the system with evaluation requirements from the national center under section 3921, subsection 1 as well as identify gaps in services by type and region and barriers to obtaining appropriate services.
[PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).

§3923. Annual reports

The department shall submit any annual and evaluation reports provided by the department to the national center under section 3921, subsection 1 to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and education matters, no later than December 15th of each year, beginning in 2022. The joint standing committees are authorized to report out legislation in any legislative session. [PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 457, §1 (NEW).

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