



Improving Systems to Secure Healthy Futures

Who We Are

The [Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems \(ECDHS\): Evidence to Impact Center](#) helps states, communities, territories, and Tribal Nations build comprehensive, cost-effective, and sustainable systems that support the health and well-being of young children and their families.

Our goal is clear: All families receive the services they need, when they need them — laying the foundation for lifelong health and well-being.

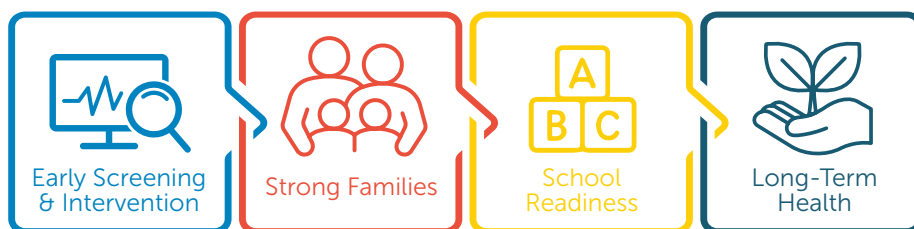


Why Our Work Matters

Too many families — especially those experiencing poverty and living in rural areas — are unable to get the services their children need to thrive.

When systems work well, children benefit from:

- **Early screening and intervention** — Developmental concerns are identified and addressed sooner, reducing risks for lifelong health impacts.
- **Strong family relationships** — Parents and caregivers get the help they need to support their children's healthy growth and development.
- **Connected care and services** — Helps prevent chronic disease and mental health risks, improves school readiness, and strengthens overall community health.



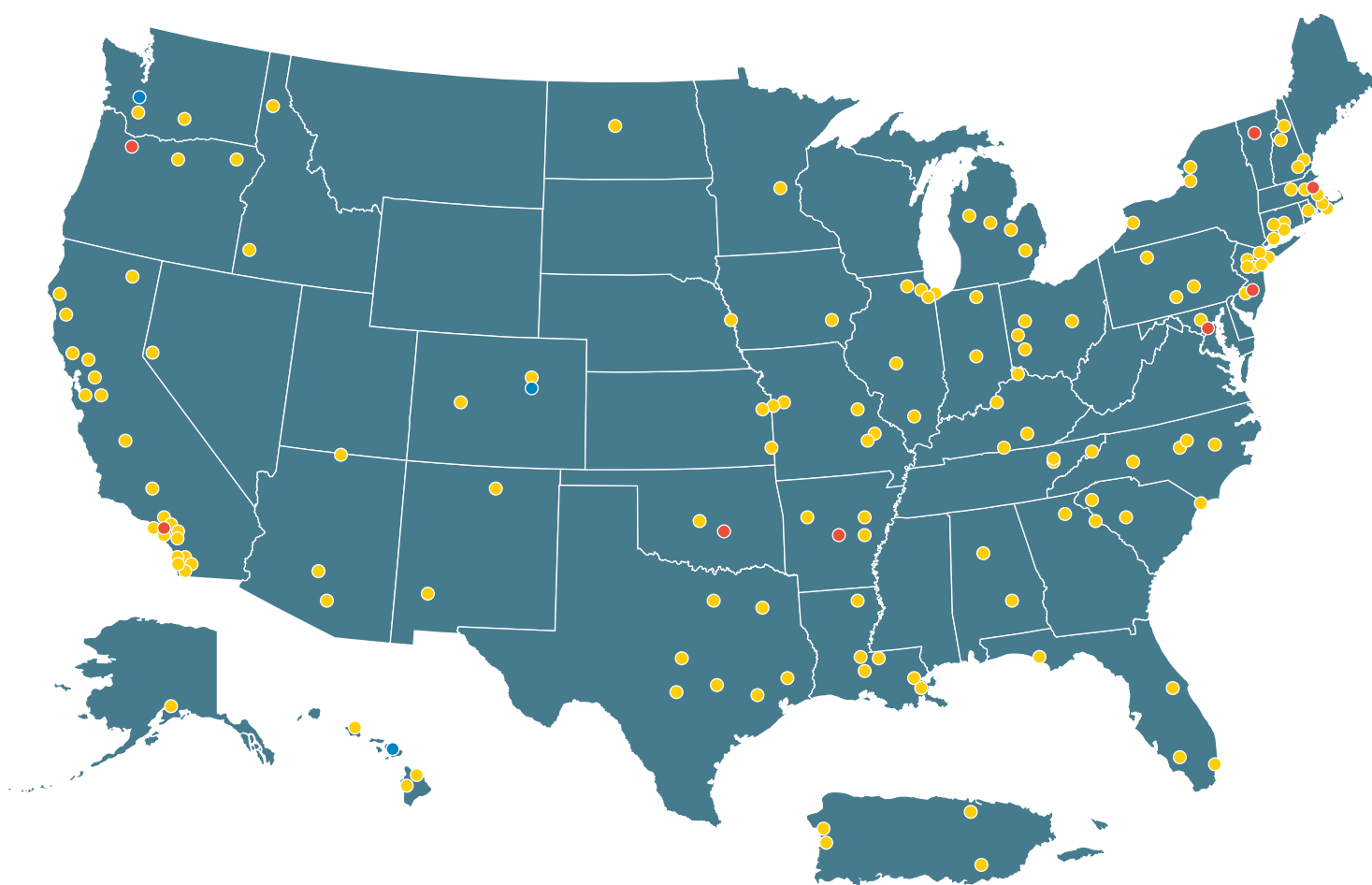
Who We Work With

Since our launch in September 2022, we have supported teams across 42 states, territories, and Tribal Nations.

3 Implementation Sites advancing state and community systems-building strategies

8 Transforming Pediatrics for Early Childhood Resource Hubs expanding developmental care in pediatric practices

151 community health centers improving early childhood developmental services



● Implementation Sites

● Transforming Pediatrics for Early Childhood Resource Hubs

● Community Health Centers

Turning Evidence Into Action

Research shows that infants and toddlers need good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences to flourish. We translate that evidence into sustainable, scalable strategies that make a positive impact by:

- **Increasing the number of early child development experts in pediatric care** — ensuring families, especially those who are uninsured or covered by Medicaid/CHIP, can access early childhood developmental specialists.
- **Helping pediatric practices offer a full continuum of care** — promoting healthy growth, identifying concerns early, connecting families to services, and ensuring children get support as soon as possible.
- **Tackling systems challenges** — filling funding gaps, ensuring early childhood professionals are well-equipped to serve families, and improving coordination of services.



Building Comprehensive, Sustainable Systems

Through intensive technical assistance, three Implementation Sites test, scale, and sustain systems-building approaches to support families in their states and communities.

SUCCESS IN ACTION

- Colorado **implemented a team-based care model**, HealthySteps, in four clinics in the rural San Luis Valley, reaching nearly 900 children across the region.
- Maui County launched a screening kiosk in the pediatric waiting room at its federally qualified health center, **increasing developmental screenings** and referrals in the county. In the first 5 months, 38 children were screened
- Washington convened a statewide community of practice with more than 30 participants across 16 state agencies and local community organizations to **make services easier to access and better connected** so families receive more seamless care.

Transforming Pediatric Care

We strengthen developmental care in pediatric practices through technical assistance for eight Transforming Pediatrics for Early Childhood (TPEC) Resource Hubs and 151 community health centers.



TPEC Resource Hubs

- Expanding workforce capacity by **hiring and training** community health workers, health professionals, mental health professionals, early childhood development specialists, social workers, and family resource specialists to meet families' needs.
- Ensuring family leadership in pediatric care by **embedding family partners** into practices, collaborating with local parent committees, and recruiting parents and caregivers for family advisory councils.
- Supporting **financing reforms** that expand and sustain access to high-quality care.

TPEC Hubs are regional teams supporting local pediatric practices to increase comprehensive early childhood health services.

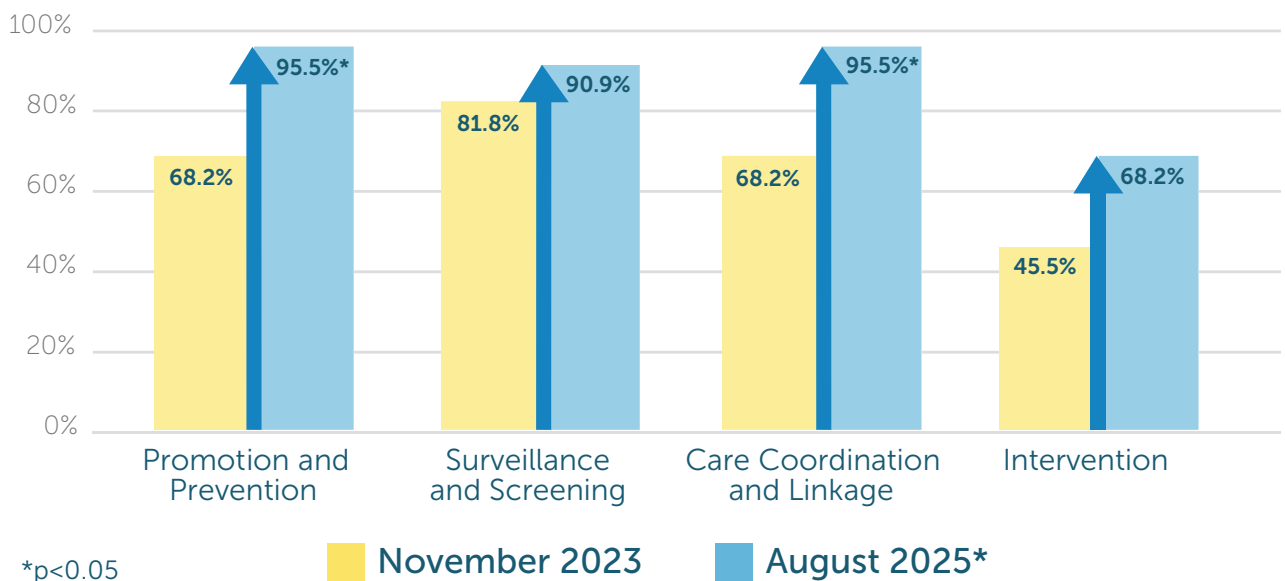
- The Chickasaw Nation
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Oregon Pediatric Improvement Partnership
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Vermont Agency of Human Services



Community Health Centers

Our Center provided technical assistance to 151 community health centers to expand developmental services over a 2-year period (concluded in August 2025). Based on survey data, the most significant gains were in two areas: **promotion and prevention** (helping keep children healthy and prevent problems) and **care coordination and linkages** (connecting families to the services they need). More than half (59.1%) of health centers that completed the surveys implemented at least one new strategy to **expand or improve their early childhood developmental services as a result of the Center’s technical assistance**.

More Health Centers Implement Early Childhood Developmental Services



Note: Data is based on surveys completed in 2023 and 2025 by 22 health centers across 14 states. Measures were self-reported by survey respondents.

“One piece we would like to highlight is how **valuable** it has been to have technical assistance that focuses on **practical, system-level change**. The support we received helped us think about how to integrate ECD [early childhood developmental] work into existing pediatric work-flows, rather than adding on separate projects that might not be sustainable.”

— Health Center Technical Assistance Recipient

Strengthening Workforce Skills Nationwide

Since our Center launched, we've provided trainings and tools to spread effective practices nationwide.

- **47 practical resources** on developmental screening, billing and coding, family-centered care, cross-system partnerships and collaborations, and other key topics
- **11 webinars** featuring system innovators, family leaders, health care providers, and other experts
- **36K+ visits from 23K+ users** on our website

Who We Have Reached

In FY24 alone, we served over **1,800 individuals** through our trainings and technical assistance.

Across Roles:

Health care providers, clinical and administrative staff, community and family groups, early intervention specialists, and more



Across States and Communities:

Leaders from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and a range of geographic regions, including rural communities

Learn more about the ECDHS: Evidence to Impact Center at earlychildhoodimpact.org. The Center is led by ZERO TO THREE, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Help Me Grow National Center, Family Voices, James Bell Associates, and the Thrive Center for Children, Families, and Communities at Georgetown University.

Data referenced in this document are current as of October 2025.

The Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems (ECDHS): Evidence to Impact Center was made possible through the support of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$4,740,000 with 0% financed from non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://hrsa.gov).