Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems

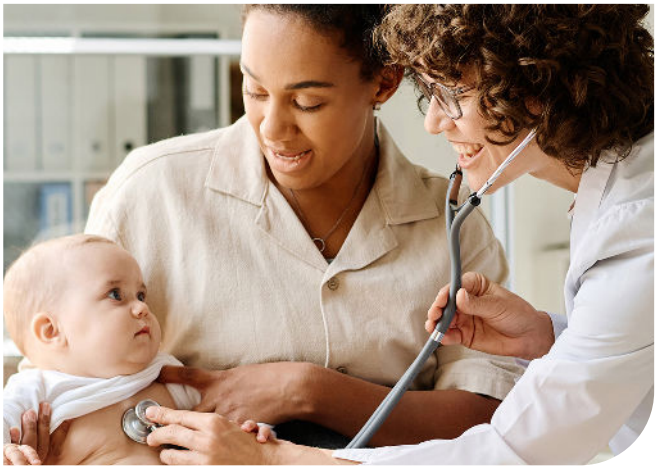
EVIDENCE TO IMPACT CENTER

Transforming Pediatrics for Early Childhood

Strengthening Families and Communities

The **Transforming Pediatrics for Early Childhood (TPEC)** program enhances how pediatric practices deliver developmental care, so every family with a young child can access services that support healthy growth, school readiness, and long-term well-being.

Pediatric practices gain the capacity, training, and tools to better meet families' needs, and families receive high-quality care that helps them be healthy, happy, and whole.



8 TPEC Resource Hubs work with local pediatric practices to expand developmental 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**

TPEC Impact by the Numbers

Data reflects activities through September 2025

51

Pediatric practices
that reach a high percentage of families who are eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or are uninsured

27K

Developmental screenings
delivered using standardized, evidence-based processes and workflows

68K

Families served

Making Strides: Transformational Change for Families and Systems

TPEC Resource Hubs partner with local pediatric practices to embed innovative, sustainable solutions that **expand access to developmental care and strengthen the systems that support families**. Together, they transform how care is delivered and build stronger connections across health, community, and family-serving sectors.

Advancing Policy and Financing Solutions

Hubs help pediatric practices sustain and scale developmental care by:

- **Leveraging Medicaid and other financing to fund essential pediatric care team roles** (e.g., family partners, community health workers, social workers, therapists, early childhood development and mental health specialists, family resource specialists).
- **Expanding knowledge of Medicaid billing and reimbursement pathways** that support family-centered, dyadic, and behavioral health services.
- **Working with managed and coordinated care organizations** to leverage funding and incentives that align with the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) guidelines.
- **Convening cross-sector workgroups** to identify challenges and advance coordinated, sustainable payment strategies.

Building and Equipping the Workforce

Hubs increase the capacity of pediatric care teams to meet families' developmental needs by:

- **Integrating professionals** (e.g., family partners, community health workers, social workers, therapists, early childhood development and mental health specialists, family resource specialists) into pediatric practices.
- **Providing tailored resources and learning opportunities** on developmental milestones, early relational health, school readiness, family engagement, and other key topics.
- **Deepening partnerships with local and national programs** to coordinate services, share data, and connect families to additional supports like home visiting, early intervention, and mental health care.

SUCCESS IN ACTION

- **Massachusetts** strengthens care team and family relationships through a learning collaborative focused on reflective practice and infant and early childhood mental health.
- **Maryland** expands training for HealthySteps Specialists using the Mothers and Babies and the Chicago Parent Program curricula.

Expanding Access to Health Screenings and Supports

Hubs help ensure that families receive timely, comprehensive access to developmental screenings (in alignment with EPSDT guidelines) by:

- **Identifying sustainable funding strategies** for team-based pediatric primary care.
- **Using data-informed quality improvement and evaluation** to uplift families' needs and establish new and improved processes that meet those needs.
- **Delivering trainings and curriculum** that support all aspects of the screening, referral, and follow-up process.

SUCCESS IN ACTION

- **Vermont** implements the DULCE model to connect families with social, economic, and legal supports within the medical home.
- **All eight TPEC Hubs** strengthen cross-sector partnerships, sustainable workforce models, and family engagement structures that can be scaled beyond individual practices.

Embedding Family Leadership

Hubs and practices create structures that ensure family perspectives inform care delivery and drive improvements by:

- **Hiring and training family partners** with lived experience to provide peer support for developmental care.
- **Engaging families through advisory councils** that inform program co-design and decision-making.
- **Capturing and incorporating family feedback** through advisory councils, surveys, interviews, community cafes, and trusted provider-family relationships.

SUCCESS IN ACTION

- **Chickasaw Nation** ensures more than half of its early childhood advisory group members are parents and caregivers.
- **Arkansas** hosts Patient Family Advisory Councils where families inform practice-level quality improvement.
- **Oregon** involves family leaders directly in quality improvement processes, including presenting on family engagement strategies and child health needs.
- **New Jersey and Los Angeles County** hire family partners with lived experience to support care coordination and peer guidance for other families.

Powering Transformation Together: Connecting National Support to Local Family Impact

The **Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems (ECDHS): Evidence to Impact Center partners with the TPEC Resource Hubs** to advance developmental care. The Center provides national guidance, shared learning, and technical assistance so Hubs can support pediatric practices in their states and communities. Hubs then share on-the-ground insights back with the Center, shaping future guidance and resources.

This continuous feedback loop connects national expertise with local innovation, ensuring the entire system works toward the same goal: **giving all young children and families access to high-quality, family-centered care.**

The ECDHS Center helps TPEC Resource Hubs with:

- **Engaging pediatric practices in systems building.**
- **Implementing best practices for pediatric primary care.**
- **Aligning financing strategies to sustain and spread innovation.**
- **Strengthening cross-sector coordination.**
- **Using continuous quality improvement and data to guide results.**
- **Communicating impact through clear storytelling and messaging.**

Technical Assistance Topics

Since launching in September 2022, the Center has provided individualized support grounded in trust, collaboration, and evidence-based frameworks. This support evolves through continuous feedback, including surveys, polls, focus groups, and ongoing dialogue with the Hubs.

ECDHS Center Support by the Numbers

Data reflects activities through FY25

300+

Individual Hub engagements to provide tailored support

16

Peer-to-peer learning sessions for Hubs to share lessons, experiences, and insights

19

Resources developed for Hubs and pediatric practices, covering topics such as cross-sector engagement, billing and coding, and more

3

Virtual and in-person gatherings to bring together Center staff, Hubs, and subject matter experts to harvest successes and workshop plans

Technical Assistance Spotlight

- Hubs were more prepared to share their successes with decision makers, rising from 50% to 80%, after the Center's 2025 peer-to-peer learning network.
- One Hub member shared, "It has been helpful to hear about the work, strategies, and challenges other Hubs are experiencing. It's also been very valuable to be able to connect with other sites [...] to troubleshoot topics and ask questions."

Learn more about TPEC and access related resources at earlychildhoodimpact.org/transforming-pediatrics/.

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