

Help Me Connect is an online navigator designed to help providers connect pregnant individuals and families with young children (birth – 8 years old) with services available in their communities. Providers will be able to make referrals and receive follow-up information that a family has been connected to services that support their child’s healthy development and family well-being.

Navigator Development	
2012-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide summit explored the National Help Me Grow model with early childhood partners including state staff, tribal liaisons, and health care and education providers
2014 -15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide workgroups provided recommendations on core components: centralized access, healthcare provider and community outreach, data Tribal summits provided recommendations specific to tribal and American Indian communities
2016 -17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsuccessful attempts at legislative and federal grant funding State agencies regrouped and moved forward with existing funding sources Work plan and next steps created by Help Me Connect implementation team
2018 -19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with Minnesota Board on Aging and www.minnesotahelp.info Developed Help Me Connect navigator test site and conducted community focus groups Completed two rounds of community provider testing
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community provider recommendations compiled and prioritized Marketing and community trainings provided Navigator finalized and launched statewide
2021 -22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and test online referral form with Preschool Development Grant community-based hubs Implement access to developmental and social-emotional electronic screening portal Market referral form and provide trainings to users and programs receiving referrals Launch referral form statewide

Prenatal and Early Childhood Services and Resources

-  Healthy Development and Screening
-  Tribal and American Indian Families
-  Developmental or Behavioral Concerns
-  Additional Caregiving and Community Support
-  Disability Services and Resources
-  Dental Care
-  Early Learning and Child Care
-  Family Well-Being and Mental Health
-  Basic Needs
-  Legal Services

Supporting Tribal Communities

- Tribal partners recommended separate section for tribal services.
- Tribal nations are sovereign and self-governing, with distinct assets and needs.
- Tribal members have access to unique services.
- Tribal organizations offer culturally relevant services for families.

Parents and providers have strongly voiced a need for a navigator* (electronic and human) and a one-stop shop to help connect to local services. Help Me Connect was developed based on community-level recommendations from a central intake work group, navigator focus groups, early childhood provider interviews, and tribal consultation. This system will support local providers who have trusted relationships with young families to locate available services in the community and make referrals. Help Me Connect will also include access to an electronic portal for developmental and social-emotional screening.

**Findings from the Preschool Development Planning Grant and Title V Maternal Child Health Block Grant needs assessments.*

