



Technology Integration for Child Development: Project Manager & Community Engagement Specialist August 2021

Context: Children who experience developmental delays early in life are at risk for poor outcomes in education, careers, and social connections in adulthood. Evidence overwhelmingly shows that children with developmental challenges have the best chance to succeed when engaged in early detection and treatment. Early screening and intervention changes lives and life trajectories, but is too rare. An exciting project in the State of Connecticut is expanding screening, connection with transformative services, and developmental promotion. This program, a collaboration between the State of Connecticut, Help Me Grow® and Sparkler Learning (a nonprofit organization), will empower parents with a first-of-its kind smartphone-based developmental screening and promotion tool while integrating with existing support systems. Specifically, the project seeks to improve early child development outcomes through enhanced developmental screening, surveillance, promotion and linkages at the intersection of home, childcare, and pediatric settings for children ages zero to five.

In scaling a promising new approach to expand proven interventions, the CT effort is of national significance.

The project's leadership team seeks a project manager and community engagement specialist to lead strategy, implementation, and evaluation.

The project has been piloted for the last three years in Connecticut communities and is now rolling out statewide to all families with children 0-5 and programs serving those families. Scaling this effort requires knowledge of the State of Connecticut, outstanding communications and organizational skills, and the ability to learn quickly as a member of a small team.

Attributes and qualifications: The project manager will be a creative team player with the skills to organize multiple stakeholders and an evident passion for supporting families with young children. This includes the following:

- Successful project management track record including planning, executing, and monitoring.
- Experience in effectively managing complex projects with multiple high-level stakeholders.
- Advanced ability to use software tools to track, monitor and report on project progress and data.
- Advanced written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to analyze, synthesize and present both technical and programmatic information to diverse audiences.
- Ability to conceptualize, plan, and operationalize adjustments and enhancements to existing systems.
- Ability to work within the landscape of early childhood services, pediatric services, referral services, and national health research services to build cross sector systems.
- Ability to anticipate and potentially circumvent challenges to building cross-sector systems.



- Strong interpersonal and group facilitation skills, with experience building group consensus while maintaining forward momentum.

Responsibilities: The Project Manager will help to organize the many elements of a statewide project, including: coordinating between and among partners and working with the leadership team to ensure successful planning and implementation.

Responsibilities include:

- Coordinating and managing the implementation and expansion across the state.
- Working effectively with others — both official team members and those who are part of a loose network of “partners” (in government, education, and healthcare) implementing this project across the state.
- Recruiting, supporting, and coordinating the work of local community partner providers and organizations.
- Organizing core efforts to advance the implementation, including training and ongoing engagement of existing and new partner organizations, learning communities and other professional learning opportunities.
- Educating and providing ongoing technical assistance to parents and the public on the project, including but not limited to, the focus of the mobile screening and promotion effort in the context of child development.
- Processing, assessing, monitoring and reporting on key data lessons learned both in developmental findings and systems performance; ensuring appropriate data exchange and substantive focus from project partners; making policy and implementation recommendations based on those findings.

Key Deliverables: The Project Manager, working with project leadership, will have considerable responsibility for the success of the mobile screening project in Connecticut, including the following measures:

- Successful engagement of families in mobile screening and developmental promotion;
- Effective integration of mobile screening into the workflow of participating partner organizations; and
- Gathering and incorporating feedback of parents and partners.

Employment relationship and Compensation: Independent contractor for Sparkler, with rates and compensation based on experience and ability to contribute. Salary equivalent in the range of \$100,000, informed by candidate experience.