



Child Health and Development Institute:

Meaningful Change Measurable Results

Ensuring healthier outcomes for children through effective policies, stronger systems, and improved practice.



Child Health and
Development Institute
of Connecticut, Inc.

A photograph of a young girl with blonde hair, wearing a green headband with a flower, a yellow long-sleeved shirt, and yellow gloves. She is holding a silver metal bucket and pouring water onto yellow flowers growing in a garden. In the foreground, there are more yellow flowers and some green plants. A small wooden garden bench is visible in the background. A butterfly is seen flying near the flowers.

“CHDI is at the nexus of research, policy, and practice. ...They provide this amazing connection to the research and science that we know is so critical for children’s healthy development.”

— Myra Jones-Taylor, Commissioner
Connecticut Office of Early Childhood



GROWING STRONGER

The Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI) with the support of our parent organization, the Children's Fund of Connecticut, advances change that results in improved outcomes for Connecticut's children.

We help children
reach their full potential
by building stronger
**health, mental health,
and early care systems**
that provide a sturdy
foundation from the start,
so children can thrive.

We partner with providers, policy makers, academic institutions, state agencies, and child-serving organizations to further our vision of providing all Connecticut children access to comprehensive, effective, community-based health and mental health care.

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a close-up of a young girl's face. She has light-colored hair and is wearing a green headband with a white flower and a yellow shirt. She is looking down at a silver bucket she is holding with both hands.

“ CHDI looks at problems and they find new solutions...”

They bring research to Connecticut and kick-start change within the system. ”

— Hector Glynn, Vice President of Programs
The Village for Families and Children

A large photograph occupies the right two-thirds of the slide. It depicts a woman with long dark hair and a young girl with curly hair, both smiling and holding small green plants. They are sitting on a grassy lawn under a bright sun.



CHDI Maximizes Children's Potential in Three Key Ways

Builds Strong Foundations in Early Childhood

Early experiences profoundly influence a child's ability to grow up healthy and succeed in school and later in life.

By integrating children's health into early childhood systems, such as home visiting and early care and education, CHDI supports the optimal development of young children where they live, learn, and play.

Improves Health and Well-Being

Building healthy outcomes for children begins with health promotion and early detection of concerns.

CHDI advances policy to support primary care practice improvements that ensure the promotion of good health, early detection of concerns, and connection of children to specialty and community services that contribute to long-term health and well-being.

Promotes Optimal Mental Health

In addition to their physical health, children's positive development depends on their social and emotional well-being.

CHDI promotes mental wellness and improves access to quality children's mental health services by identifying and implementing effective models of treatment and advancing behavioral health system changes so children and their families can thrive.

EARLY CHILDHOOD:

Ensuring the Best Start for Children



CHDI promotes the best start in life by integrating health, mental health, and early care systems into a comprehensive approach for young children.

What We Do

Construct Strong Foundations for Children: Infant Mental Health

The development of healthy social-emotional skills through secure attachment with a caregiver lays the foundation for a child's mental health. CHDI is translating infant attachment research into policy solutions and is supporting the development of a workforce trained to advance the social and emotional development of children beginning in their earliest years.

Ensure Young Children Grow Up at a Healthy Weight: Obesity Prevention

CHDI advances policies and develops strategies to ensure a healthy weight beginning in the first years of a child's life. Our work, based on scientific research, input from Connecticut stakeholders, and examples from other states, informs early childhood policies and promotes better practices to prevent the growing problem of childhood obesity.

Help Children Stay on Track: Developmental Screening

CHDI is ensuring that developmental monitoring and screening are integral to health and early childhood services. We are assisting the State to build a system that monitors children's development and links children to helpful intervention services as early as possible.

Promote Health and Safety in Child Care: Health Consultation

We are working to build a system that connects health and early care and education by using nurse health consultants as liaisons between pediatric primary care and child care.

HEALTH: Transforming Health Services for Children



CHDI is dedicated to improving the quality of pediatric primary care for children. We support innovations that help health and community services work together. The results are earlier detection of development risks and better outcomes for children and their families.

What We Do

Facilitate Health Reform: State Innovation Model

Connecticut is in the process of implementing changes to our health care system that will promote health and improve efficiency. CHDI is engaged in this effort to assure the new system benefits children and their families.

Initiate Systems Innovations: Partnership with Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health

We identify, test, and implement new and better ways to deliver child health services, so systems are more efficient and effective. CHDI supported the development of several innovations including care coordination collaboratives, mid-level developmental assessment, and primary care and subspecialty co-management. Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health is disseminating these innovations across the state and nation.

Improve Pediatric Primary Care: Educating Practices In the Community (EPIC)

Our EPIC program gives providers information and tools to implement best-practice changes. EPIC offers free office-based trainings and connects practices to local resources to help them better address their patients' needs. We train providers on a range of topics including trauma, maternal depression, developmental screening, and lead exposure.

Support Primary Care Practices: Medical Home

CHDI assists pediatric primary care practices in becoming recognized medical homes – accessible, family-centered, culturally competent primary care practices that are well coordinated with medical subspecialty and community services.

MENTAL HEALTH:

Connecting More Children to Effective Mental Health Treatment



CHDI is dedicated to ensuring children get the quality mental health care they need for their long-term well-being. Our core areas of focus are promoting children's well-being, identifying behavioral health concerns early, and ensuring families have access to effective mental health treatment.

What We Do

Help Children Recover from Trauma: Trauma-Informed Care



We are building a comprehensive system of care to identify and treat children who experience traumatic events and toxic stress, and mitigate their harmful developmental effects. This includes universal trauma screening, development of a workforce to deliver evidence-based trauma treatment, and collaboration across Connecticut's child-serving systems to implement trauma-informed practice and policy changes.

Improve Mental Health Treatment: Evidence-Based Practices

CHDI helps children's mental health providers deliver the most effective treatment available by identifying evidence-based treatment models and bringing them to Connecticut. Our approach ensures these research-based models work in real-world settings, resulting in better outcomes for children and families.

Build Schools' Capacity to Address Behavioral Health: School-Based Mental Health

We help schools identify and connect students with behavioral health concerns to community-based services, decreasing the likelihood of suspension, expulsion or arrest, and promoting better academic outcomes and overall well-being.

Transform Connecticut's Mental Health System: Children's Behavioral Health Plan

CHDI is working with state agencies, providers, and families to transform Connecticut's behavioral health system. CHDI facilitated the development of a long-term plan for system reform and is advancing changes that will result in a higher quality, more comprehensive, and accessible system for children and families.

**“ CHDI is a hero
for kids in
Connecticut...”**

With CHDI’s help, we are able to quickly turn new research into practices that benefit our patients and their families. ”

— Barbara Ziogas, Pediatrician
Private Practice
(recognized as an NCQA Medical Home)



Resources and Publications

Learn more about our efforts to improve the health and well-being of Connecticut's children. Visit CHDI.org to read our publications and explore our resources including:

Online Biennial Report – Highlights our work to bring meaningful change and measurable results to children in Connecticut. Includes financial summaries and governing board members.

Issue Briefs – Focus on critical issues affecting children and families in Connecticut and the steps CHDI and partners are taking to address them, with recommendations for future implementation.

Policy Briefs – Explore policy opportunities informed by the latest national research and best practices and how they apply to Connecticut.

IMPACT Reports – Feature insights and best practices for effecting long-term, systemic change to promote the health and well-being of children.

Guides and Toolkits – Provide resources designed to help parents care for young children, schools divert students at risk of arrest to community mental health services, and communities integrate child health services into early childhood initiatives.

KidsMentalHealthInfo.com – Highlights children's mental health information and resources for parents and caregivers, as well as training for early care and education and pediatric providers. (Available in Spanish)

Training Opportunities – Offer child health providers free training through our Educating Practices In the Community program (EPIC).

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Stay informed about CHDI's latest research, efforts and programs, our statewide impact, and health issues affecting children in Connecticut.



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Child Health and
Development Institute
of Connecticut, Inc.

Meaningful Change. Measurable Results.

The Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut, a subsidiary of the Children's Fund of Connecticut, is a not-for-profit organization established to improve the health and well-being of children by advancing system, policy, and practice changes. CHDI helps children reach their full potential by building stronger health, mental health, and early care systems that provide a sturdy foundation so children can thrive.



Children's Fund
of Connecticut, Inc.

A supporting organization of
Connecticut Children's Medical Center

The Children's Fund of Connecticut, a public charitable foundation and supporting organization of Connecticut Children's Medical Center, is dedicated to improving the quality of children's lives by building stronger health systems through its grantmaking and support for its subsidiary, the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI).

View our digital biennial report at www.CHDI.org.

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