

# Help Me Connect to Early Childhood and Family Support Resources

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Time: 12:00-1:00pm

## Topic:

Minnesota [Help Me Connect](#) is a free online navigation resource that helps expectant families, families with young children, and professionals working with families connect to services in their local communities that support healthy child development and family well-being. This webinar will take you through a live demonstration of what unique features the Help Me Connect website can offer. Since its launch in 2021, the site currently provides information about 14,500+ state and local programs that can be searched and filtered by location and specialized features. The directory includes non-profits, for-profits (licensed by the state of Minnesota) and government agencies that are organized into eleven categories, including basic needs (food, housing, job support), childcare, early education programs, dental and health care, early childhood mental health, parenting supporting and disability resources.

## Presenter: Shawn Holmes

Shawn Holmes is the Help Me Connect Coordinator at the MN Department of Health. She leads a cross-agency team from the MN Departments of Health; Education; Human Services; and Children, Youth and Families that is responsible for implementing an online, early childhood navigator that connects expectant and parenting families with young children to services in their local communities. She previously worked in the Children and Youth with Special Health Needs Section at MDH as the coordinator of the Follow Along Program – a statewide developmental and social-emotional screening program provided through local public health departments for children birth to 36 months who are at risk of health or developmental issues. She has also led numerous projects over the past 15 years as an early childhood liaison between local health care, public health, and early childhood education programs. Shawn holds a BA in Child Psychology and an MSW Certificate in Child Abuse Prevention Studies. Her source of passion over the past 25+ years is fueled by personal experience – to make sure families know who they can talk to when they need help and to trust in their role as experts about their children.

## Who should participate/Audience:

Health care providers, nurses, public health, health educators, social workers, therapists, Community Health Workers, and anyone who interacts with individuals from other cultures.

## Objectives:

- Understand how referrals through Help Me Connect can support professionals and the families they serve.
- Identify analytics, common themes and the top key word searches used among Help Me Connect visitors.
- Learn how to use Help Me Connect resources to find and refer families to local services.

**CEU** - Participants should contact their relevant licensing board to determine if this program will meet continuing education requirements and CEU values.

This webinar is free, but space is limited, click here to [Register](#).

*This webinar is presented by a collaboration of Minnesota health plans working to improve maternal health and child development in Minnesota. Thank you to Blue Plus, HealthPartners, Hennepin Health, IMCare, Medica, South Country Health Alliance, UCare for their commitment to this issue.*



All webinars will be posted on the [Health Plan Performance Improvement Project website](#)