

# Mental Health Bridge

*Bridging the Gap in Childhood Mental Health*

## Pilot Program Outcomes



Investing in early childhood mental health services not only benefits our youngest Ohioans and their families, it benefits the community and the state by fostering healthier and more productive future generations.

Mental Health Bridge was a pilot program administered by the Ohio Children's Alliance that connected Ohio child care centers, and parents of the children enrolled, with a statewide network of mental health providers that have expertise and certification in early childhood mental health (ECMH).

Funding for Mental Health Bridge was provided to Ohio Children's Alliance through the Ohio Department of Children and Youth.

The pilot program began in July 2022, and concluded on June 30, 2024.

## Highlights

45

Child care centers making referrals

17

Networked ECMH Providers

176

Referrals Received

66

Children received ECMH assessments

276

Follow-up clinical services provided

### Mental Health Bridge Achievements:

- Expanded access to high-quality, individualized mental health services to young children enrolled in child care through the development of a secure, online referral software solution.
- Cultivated a network of early childhood mental health providers able to provide services at their organization, at the child's home, and at the child care center.
- Enhanced the professional development of 44 clinicians from the Mental Health Bridge Provider Network through completion of the 12 hour, ZERO TO THREE DC:0-5 clinical training.
- Reduced waiting times for early childhood mental health services to a median wait time of 21 days from referral to assessment, as compared to wait times which can last 6-12 months.
- Raised awareness and provided education on the Mental Health Bridge program for numerous child care centers.

“Having the Mental Health Bridge come into our center and work with our families has been a Godsend. We are able to address the children's individual anxieties, worries, and concerns.”

-Central Ohio Child Care Center

