



The Preschool Development Grant provided grants to Community-Based Organizations to connect parents and caregivers to resources and supports that their children need to grow, develop, and thrive. This funding opportunity was designed to enhance the rates of developmental screenings, referrals to services to meet basic needs, and participation in vital early intervention and health services. These grants supported Community-Based Organizations to bring on Community Health Workers (CHW) and outreach staff from the community to serve as trusted partners for parents/caregivers. These dedicated CHWs and outreach staff engaged families in a variety of ways, including through face-to-face visits in their offices or at local medical offices, home visits, and in-person or on-line parent workshops. The CHWs actively listen to the individual needs of each family, connecting them with the child development information and services that will best support them and their young children.

Along with being connected to early intervention and health services for their children, participating families have been connected to housing supports, help with paying utility bills, food access/nutrition services, education and employment opportunities for the parents, postpartum support and much more!

A Story To Be Told

Staff funding through the Preschool Development Grant at Greater Portland Public Health Center worked with both primary care providers and local elementary schools to coordinate and connect children to needed eye exams with optometrists and assistance with getting glasses through MaineCare. The support from the staff helped parents overcome barriers to scheduling specialty medical appointments and introduced parents to optometry services, which they will be able to access for their children in the future to ensure good eye health and visual acuity. In some cases, the glasses will be delivered directly to the children at their schools so that parents will not have to take more time off work.



The Preschool Development Grant also funded two additional Family Support Specialists for Help Me Grow. While they supported families in all languages, Jacques and Guy together are fluent in English, Lingala, French, and Kinyarwanda. They were able to expand Help Me Grow's reach and encourage more families to reach out for support and referrals. Over the time period of the grant, the two of them supported a total of 469 cases. They have provided referrals to help families meet their top concerns about their children, including basic needs, developmental milestones, child care, and caregiver support.



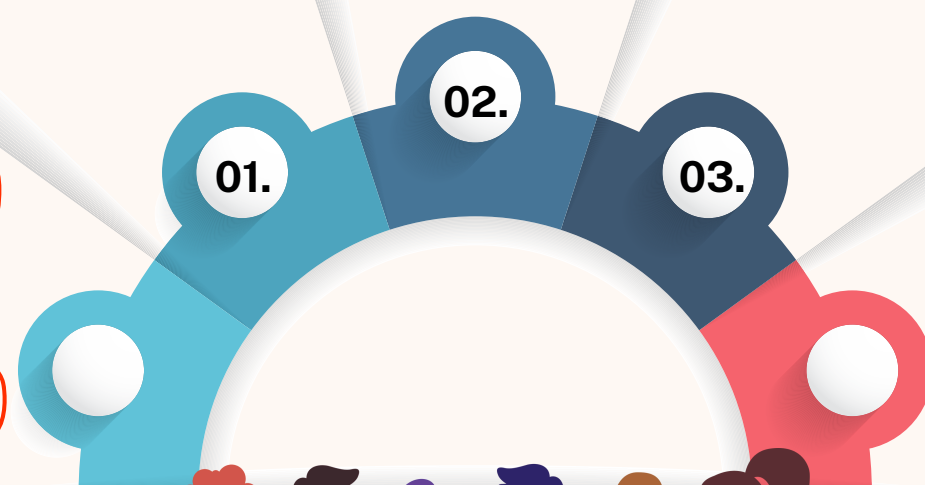
Together, Jacques and Guy provided 164 child safety seats to families on their caseloads



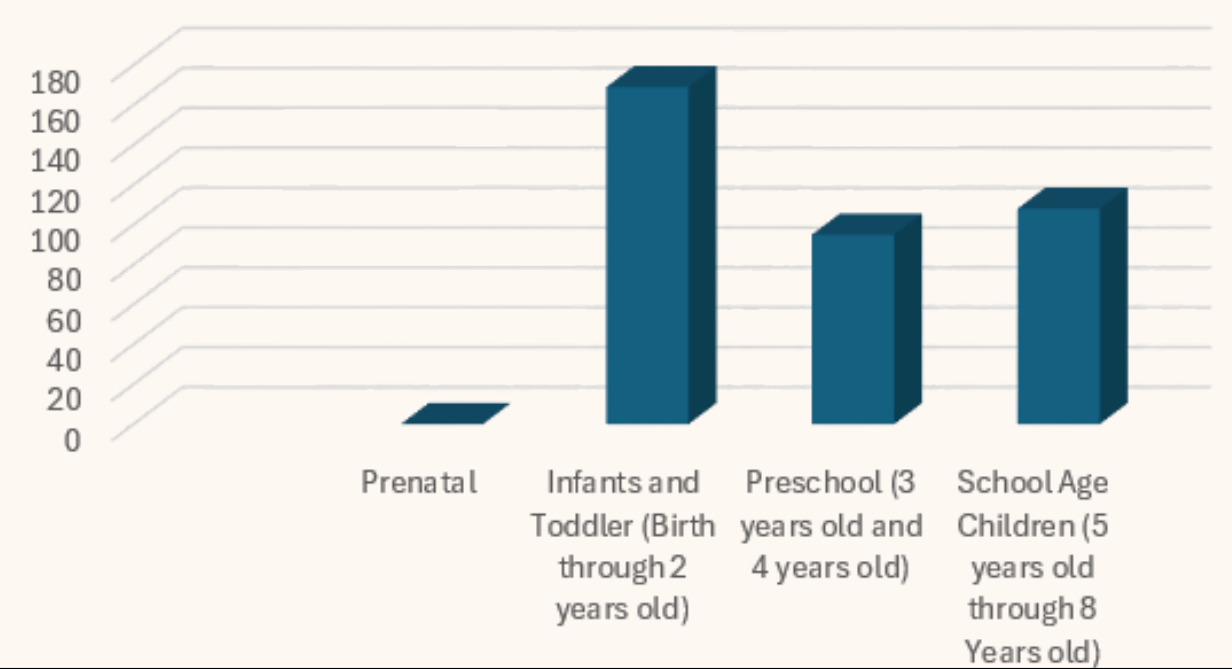
Together Jacques and Guy provided 583 referrals to supports and services for the families they served.



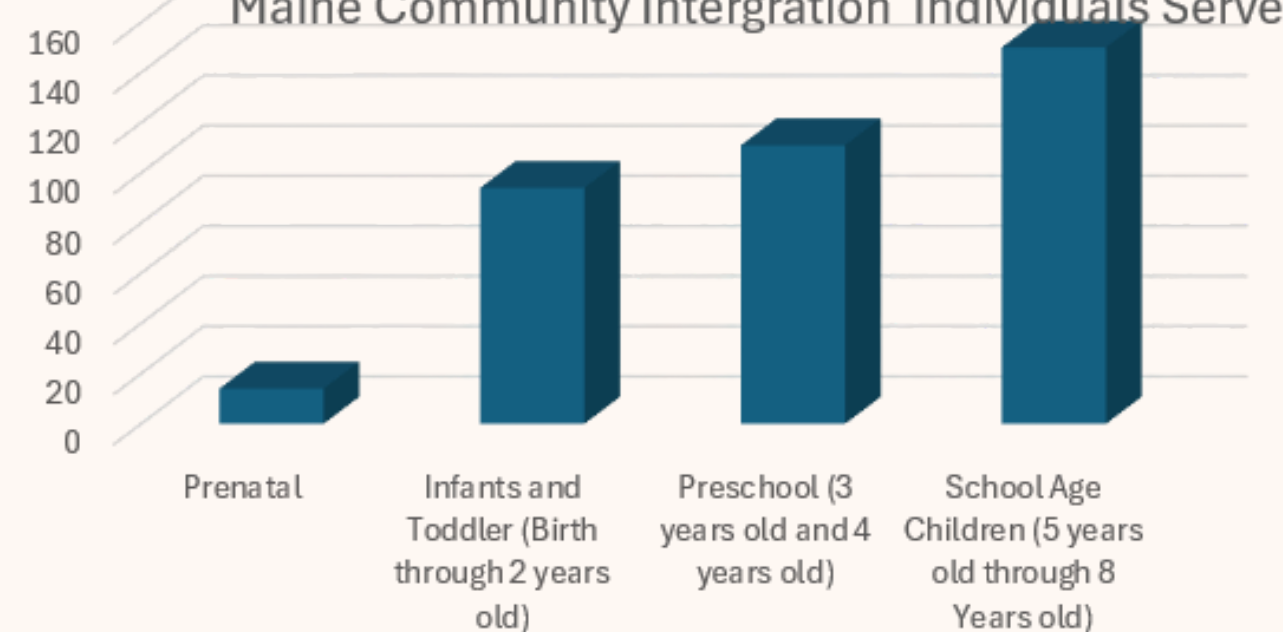
Together Jacques and Guy helped 41 families with access to the ASQ-3, and 17 families accessed the ASQ-SE — and helped them refer to Child Development Services when indicated.



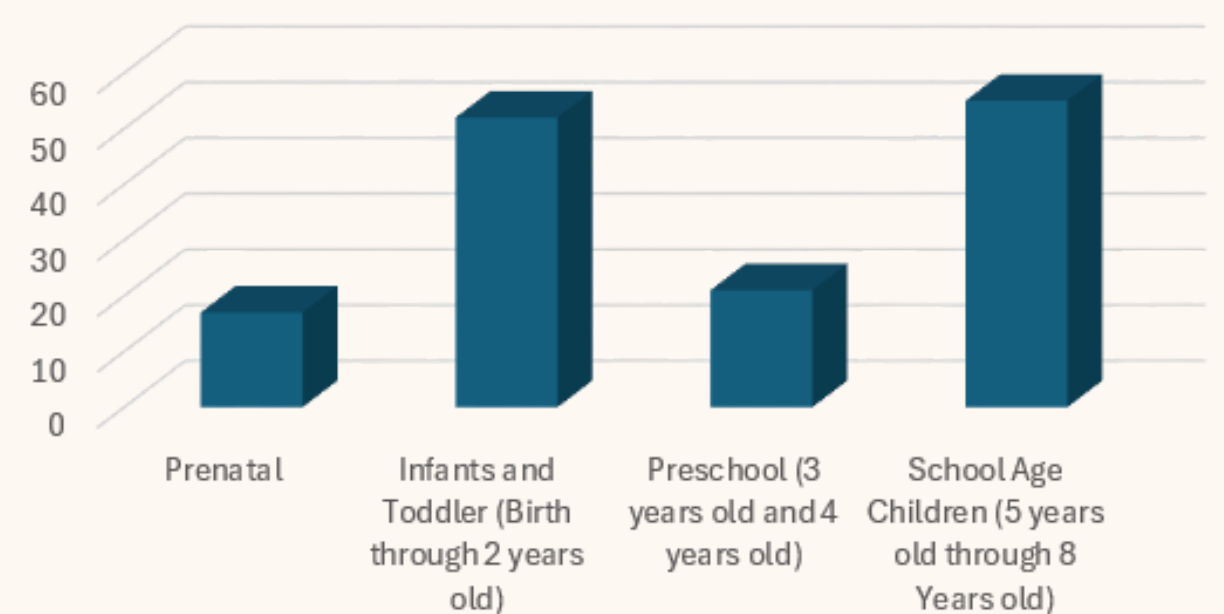
Greater Portland Health Individuals Served



Maine Community Intergration Individuals Served



York County Community Action Corporation Individuals Served



New Mainers Public Health Initiative Individuals Served

