

Healthy Start FAQ: From Assessment to Assistance: Using Assessment Results to Prioritize Technical Assistance Needs

On Thursday, January 15th the EPIC Center hosted a webinar about CBA worksheet results and how these results are informing the EPIC Centers approach to training and technical assistance. During the webinar, grantees asked many great and important questions. We took those questions and have summarized some of the key areas of interest:

CBA Worksheets

When will the CBA worksheets be updated?

The goal of the CBA worksheets was to give the EPIC Center a sense of areas where grantees would benefit from training and technical assistance, so we could plan accordingly. The EPIC Center has used these results to inform both the topics and the opportunities for support, which include webinars, discussion groups (in lieu of more formal learning collaboratives) and other opportunities to connect grantees based on similar areas of strength and opportunity for improvement as well as interest.

CBA worksheets will be implemented annually in order to most accurately assess group progress overtime, ensuring that the EPIC Center is providing support tailored to the most current grantee needs.

The Universe of Evidence Based Practices

When do we need to implement an evidence based curriculum?

On January 29 the EPIC Center will facilitate a tour of the website, including a searchable database of practices. Throughout the next year, the EPIC Center will work with grantees to see if there are any preferred evidence based practices that are appropriate for Healthy Start. Depending on the outcome of those conversations, the lists may change to reflect what grantees prioritize as the most appropriate evidence based practices.

Training

What will I learn from *Hear from Your Peers* and *Ask the Experts*?

The HS EPIC Center will be hosting monthly webinars: ***Hear from Your Peers* and *Ask the Experts***. ***Hear from Your Peers*** are co-facilitated by a HS grantee and the EPIC Center and provide a forum for sharing lessons learned across grantees. ***Ask the Experts*** are one hour “office hours” with an expert who will provide a brief overview of a topic and answer questions from participants. A list of monthly webinars will be posted in the monthly e-newsletter and reminders will be sent out via email.

When will I learn about maximizing on Collective Impact and the CAN?

February marks the kick-off of a year-long intensive learning opportunity available for all grantees to explore successful strategies for building your CAN effectiveness and achieving Collective Impact.

Will there be leadership training for new HS directors?

The results of the CBA Worksheets indicated a low interest in leadership training. As a result, no leadership training has been scheduled. However, the HS EPIC Center will continue to reevaluate the need for training and work with the HS Program to respond, as appropriate.

Have the Core competencies been finalized?

While core competencies have not been fully developed, the skills and capabilities detailed in the CBA Worksheets provide a basis for targeting capacity building during the coming months. The HS EPIC Center will be working with the HS CoIN to identify opportunities for standardizing the HS model. As the model becomes more formalized, competencies will be more clearly identified.

Who can attend the EPIC Center webinars? Are they only for project directors?

EPIC Center webinars are not just for project directors! The more the merrier! These webinars are a great professional development opportunity, strengthening the healthy start work force by providing current, relevant and accessible information. Come learn from your Healthy Start community of experts and other experts in the field of maternal and child health. Please feel free to share the Healthy Start webinar announcements with key staff. All are welcome to attend.

Information Sharing: Knowledge is Power!

What kind of help can I get from the EPIC Center Help Line?

The help line is available for you to ask **any** question regarding the EPIC center and available TA. A knowledgeable and reliable staff person reachable via the help line will take your questions and ensure a prompt and complete response.

What is housed on the EPIC Center website?

The presentations will be recorded and posted along with a copy of the PowerPoint slides. We will also post Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) documents and any applicable handouts or printable materials.

Who are the Healthy Start experts and how are they selected?

The Healthy Start experts are you and other experts in the maternal child health field. Experts are present at all levels in the Healthy Start community and will be tapped for their knowledge and expertise. One way the EPIC Center will be engaging these experts will be as peer mentors. The HS EPIC Center is working with the National Healthy Start Association to develop a peer mentoring program and hopes to contract to provide this service in 2015.

What is the CoIN's role in the larger Healthy Start program?

The Healthy Start CoIN serves as an advisory committee to the EPIC center, ultimately a clearing house of recommendations put forth by grantee discussion groups. Additionally, the COIN serves as a liaison to all Healthy Start grantees, intended to accurately represent all grantee interests.

The CoIN kicks off in February and will include monthly meetings to support both the Healthy Start program and EPIC center in identifying opportunities most helpful in the field.