



Healthy Start EPIC Center



The **Healthy Start EPIC Center** provides assistance to support Healthy Start (HS) grantees in achieving program goals. The Center helps to strengthen staff skills to implement evidence-based practices in maternal and child health, facilitates grantee-to-grantee sharing of expertise and lessons from the field, enables grantees to conduct ongoing evaluation of activities for effectiveness, and builds program capacity to work with community partners to improve health and social service systems for women, infants and families.

SERVICES OFFERED BY THE HEALTHY START EPIC CENTER

Training and technical assistance (TTA) provided by the HS EPIC Center are “data-driven”, designed to address specific needs and gaps identified by grantees and Project Officers, through needs assessments, performance monitoring, and program evaluation. HS EPIC Center TTA activities include:

Web-based Training: All HS grantee staff are invited to attend web-based trainings, which are also recorded and posted to www.healthystartepic.org for viewing at a later time.

- **Hear from Your Peers Webinars** showcase Healthy Start programs in action. Healthy Start grantee(s) present on a specific topic, sharing implementation strategies, challenges overcome and lessons learned in delivering HS services in their local area.
- **Discussion Groups** give grantees the opportunity for a more in-depth exchange about topics presented during Hear from Your Peers webinars. This series of up to three one-hour discussions utilizes a web meeting platform to bring up to 20 grantees together to share elements for success and implementation challenges with each other, and feed their findings to the HS CoIIN. The CoIIN in turn will review, distill and integrate these findings to make recommendations for standards of practice for HS programs.
- **Ask the Expert Webinars** are 60 minute sessions in which an expert presents on a topic of interest, providing a brief (15-30 minute) overview followed by 30-45 minute Q&A period.

Technical Assistance (TA): TA provides for in-depth assistance to an individual grantee or group of grantees that is tailored to their unique needs, contexts, and environments.

Healthy Start Collaborative Innovation and Improvement Network (HS CoIIN): The HS CoIIN is a partnership of Healthy Start grantees dedicated to strengthening Healthy Start services and systems, to advance program goals to reduce infant mortality and improve birth outcomes. Through a structured process of collaborative learning, the HS CoIIN seeks to identify and promote implementation of standardized evidence-based and field-tested approaches to essential HS components such as perinatal risk assessment, case management, participant engagement and empowerment, and fostering Collective Impact and local systems integration through Community Action Networks (CAN).

Website: www.healthystartepic.org is the portal for resources and tools, home for the Healthy Start knowledge base, and a platform to facilitate collaboration and communications among HS grantees. Website features include a grantee directory and profiles, links to statistical databases, an online TA request system, a searchable inventory of evidence-based practices, and an online training catalog, as well as discussion forums for grantees.

1:1 Peer Mentoring: HS grantees are matched for a mentoring relationship with another HS grantee. Mentoring opportunities will be identified by HS EPIC Center staff through the TA request system and communicated to the National Healthy Start Association, who will oversee the matching of peer mentors based on topic area of interest with sensitivity to the target population being served.

Resources and Tools: The HS EPIC Center curates and creates reference materials, guidance resources and tools to support grantees in promoting and delivering HS services.

Healthy Start Convention: This year's convention, attended by all HS grantees, will take place in November 2015. Planning will be led by a committee of HS grantees, Project Officers, and HS EPIC center staff.

Contact Us:

www.healthystartepic.org: to learn about training, request TA or access resources and tools.

healthystartepic@jsi.com: Email us with specific questions or for immediate assistance.

1-844-225-3713, toll-free.

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