



## Healthy Start FAQ: Conversations with the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services

On August 16, 2018, HRSA staff in the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services conducted a webinar in during which they provided updates on the Healthy Start Program, the Healthy Start National Evaluation, and Healthy Start Data Reporting. The COLIN Co-Chairs also provided an update on COLIN activities, EPIC team staff provided reminders of available services and new initiative updates.

During the presentation, attendees asked several great questions, which have been answered below.

In case you or a colleague missed the webinar, a recording of the presentation can be found on the EPIC Center's Training Calendar.

### HRSA/MCHB Updates

**Will the supplemental award be 4.23 percent of our current level of funding, or of the original amount?**

It is your original requested FY18 amount.

**How will the additional funding be allocated? Can we determine how we spend the money?**

This is a grants management question. Your NOFO will detail this information, or it will be included in the Terms or Comments section.

**With additional funding, are projects expected to reach 100 percent caseloads?**

This has not yet been discussed internally.

**Are there updates on the NOFO that is scheduled to be released in late August/early September?**

The NOFOs are still in a review and approval process and there are no updates at this time. Interested programs should continue to check grants.gov. Further guidance will be available in the NOFO when it is available.

### Healthy Start National Evaluation

**Do grantees need to continue to consent participants for the national evaluation?**

If a mother returns to your program who gave birth in 2017 and was not previously consented, you may request her consent. However, if your records have already been transferred to the VRO, then you do not need to get the mother's consent. You do not have to consent new participants.

**What is the role of states whose VRO has elected not to participate in the Healthy Start evaluation?**

For the two states (Texas and New Jersey) that are not participating, you will not have an active role in this evaluation. MCHB understands that this is not due to the actions or will of the grantee.



## Healthy Start Data Reporting

**If we have identified errors in prior months' HSMED submissions (e.g. June 2018), are we able to re-submit the HSMED for that month?**

Yes. Some of the tools are not over-writable (e.g. demographic and pregnancy history), so they cannot be resubmitted. However, other forms (e.g. preconception, prenatal, post-partum interconception/parenting) are over-writable, and can be corrected, revised and resubmitted if errors are identified. However, all data reported in 2017 have been frozen and changes are no longer accepted.

**Do grantees receive notification if there are errors in their monthly reporting submission, or confirmation that all data have been correctly and completely submitted?**

When client-level data are uploaded into the HSMED system, the system will generate error messages to advise you if your data are in the correct format. It is not possible at this point for us to inform the grantee whether the client-level data submitted are complete or high-quality for every client. Eventually, it will be possible to do so, but we do not have that capability at this point. Within the next two to three weeks, HRSA will advise the project officers of what the 2017 data looks like, and your project officer will communicate that information to you. It is anticipated that by October 2018, HRSA will have an update on what your 2018 data look like so that you can make any necessary improvements to the data before you submit all of your data on or before February 15, 2019.

**By what dates are the monthly reports due?**

Reports are due at the end of each month. Programs should start emailing their reports as soon as possible (as early as the 10th of each month).

**Are grantees expected to submit a progress report in December 2018?**

No. The competitive application will count as the progress report.

**Will the Progress Report grantees submit before the end of the year reflect the new performance measures or the old benchmarks?**

This is a competitive year. November 1 starts have already submitted their Progress Report for the past year. April 1 starts have not yet submitted their competitive progress report in this year.

**What is the timeline for screening tools changes to be reflected in HSMED, data dictionary, xml schema, etc.?**

No timeline has been established. The timeline largely depends on OMB approval. Once the screening tools are approved, we will be able to provide an estimated timeline based on the length of time that it will take to adapt HSMED for those changes.

**Will the 'optional' questions then NOT be included in the HSMED uploads once the changes are implemented?**

This decision has not yet been made. The decision will be made based on the ease with which the changes can be made in the system.

# EPIC Training FAQs



**Are grantees expected to use the old screening tools until the HSMED schema is updated?**

Yes. Continue to screen and report with the same screening tools until the new screening tools are available.

**Will grantees need to re-screen clients with the revised screening tools?**

This has not yet been addressed for future screenings. HRSA does not expect that grantees will screen clients again with the new tools and submit revisions to data that have already been submitted (e.g. data from 2015).

**Please provide clarity on how women who were pregnant but then give birth should be counted each month.**

Programs should review the instructions guide that can be found on the Healthy Start EPIC Website. If programs still have questions after reviewing this guide, they can be submitted to [Healthystartdata@hrsa.gov](mailto:Healthystartdata@hrsa.gov).

## Healthy Start ColIN

**Will guidance on re-screening questions be provided (e.g. which questions and when)?**

The ColIN did not address this.

## EPIC Center Update

**Is another Healthy Start Convention planned for the current funding cycle?**

There will not be a Convention this fall and EPIC Center is in conversations with the Division about future conferences. Further information will be shared soon.

**How do grantees request/apply for the community workshop?**

Contact the Healthy Start EPIC Helpline (1-844-225-3713 or [healthystartepic@jsi.com](mailto:healthystartepic@jsi.com)) and we will help set you up with one.

**Where can applications for the new initiatives (Fatherhood and Leadership and Health Equity) be located?**

The Leadership Initiative will be posted to the website and will also be advertised through the e-News.

**Is the composition of the Leadership and Health Equity Initiative program team flexible?**

We are looking to have the CAN Coordinator, Fatherhood Coordinator, and Case Management/Care Coordinator as the core team. The Project Director also needs to be supportive of the project. If you have a particular team member in mind that is not listed above as a part of the intended program team, please reach out to the Healthy Start EPIC Center to discuss your specific situation with Naomi Clemmons.

**Can you consider postponing the Leadership and Health Equity Initiative webinar until after the NOFO deadline?**

# EPIC Training FAQs



The EPIC Center recognizes that this is a busy time of year for grantees and has planned the initiative to have a slow ramp up with minimal time required for participants during Sept-Oct. It should also be noted that the staff involved in the initiatives (Fatherhood Coordinator, Case Management/Care Coordinator, and CAN Coordinators) will likely have a lesser role in the proposal development process than other staff.

**Is the Healthy Start EPIC Center working with the National Healthy Start Association (NHSA) on the Fatherhood Initiative, and will the Fatherhood Summit conflict with the NHSA Annual Summit?**

The NHSA will not be holding a conference in March 2019. Please look out for further information on when the next conference will be held.

**Is there a requirement for all staff to complete the Community Health Worker Course modules?**

There is not. There is, however, a recommendation for specific staff to complete a number of the modules from Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Course.

**Is an editable version of the Grantee Self-Assessment tool available for grantee use?**

The Grantee Self-Assessment tool is now posted to the [EPIC Center Website](#) as both Word and PDF files.

**In the Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Inventory on the Healthy Start EPIC Center website, Partners for a Healthy Baby is listed as evidenced-based. We've been told it's not an evidenced based curriculum. Will Healthy Start recognize PHB as evidenced-based for the purposes of program implementation?**

The EBP Inventory includes three levels of practices, and each is given an evidence rating. Partners for a Healthy Baby is listed with a Level III evidence rating. It is not an evidence-based practice, but is instead listed as "Expert guidelines - Protocols, standards of practice, or recommendations based on expert consensus". Partners for a Healthy Baby fits this level perfectly, as it was developed by a multidisciplinary team of experts in obstetric medicine, early childhood development, psychology, social work, and early intervention, who reviewed the latest research and clinical guidelines to create a curriculum based on evidence-based strategies for home visitors to use when addressing issues facing expectant parents and families with infants.