



Healthy Start FAQ: Launching Our Learning Together: Using Peer Learning Networks to Achieve Collective Impact

On May 13, 2015 the EPIC Center along with support from Deborah Fraiser, CEO of National Healthy Start Association, Makeva Rhoden, Project Officer with MCHB's Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services, Sylvia Cheuy and Liz Weaver from the Tamarack Institute, Kenn Harris, Project Director of New Haven Healthy Start, and Laurita Kaigler-Crawle, Director of Program Development and Implementation with the Boston Public Health Commission facilitated a webinar to introduce the opportunity and benefits of participating in the Peer Learning Networks (PLN). The PLN Initiative is most applicable to Healthy Start Project Directors, program, and backbone staff involved with the Community Action Networks (CAN)/Collective Impact (CI) Initiatives and chairs or key stakeholders in leadership roles on the CAN/CI Initiatives.

During the presentation, participants asked several great questions, all of which have been answered here.

In case you or a colleague missed the webinar, a recording of the presentation can be found on [the EPIC Center website](#).

How many staff should each grantee send to participate in the PLN?

Each HS grantee site decides how many staff they want to participate, although the suggested number is two participants per site. Two participants will usually cover any potential scheduling conflicts in case one of the participants is unable to make a meeting. Additionally, involving two staff can be helpful in strategizing and applying lessons learned from the CIPLN with your local CAN. Please ensure that whoever signs up is, in fact, able to regularly participate in and contribute to the group in order to optimize functionality and success.

Will participants be provided with templates on how to structure the Collective Impact process?

Yes! A toolbox has been developed with resources and instruction to support the process. The toolbox describes the five conditions of CI and reviews preconditions and methods for evaluating success. There's also an Implementation Action Plan template that will be shared with participants to populate and is also editable to grantee needs.

The toolbox provides a framework to guide the monthly CIPLN calls. However, a central value of peer learning is to be responsive to the interests and needs of participants so the direction of each CIPLN is flexible based on participants' priorities. Each CIPLN will evaluate where participants are in terms of implementing CI, and what grantees aim to achieve through the CIPLN. The toolbox is designed to help grantees progress towards achieving CI.

When will the template be available?

The template will be a part of the introductory calls scheduled to take place in June.



Where will rural multisite tribal communities fit into the PLN groups?

Tribal groups are encouraged to join a rural CIPLN. In recognition of unique issues facing tribal grantees, the EPIC Center will evaluate if the needs of tribal grantees are being well served.

A consultant who focuses on providing TA to tribal grantees participated in the training of trainers session and is available as a technical expert to help with meeting the specific needs for tribal grantees.

Will the January report information be shared via webinar or in person at a conference?

We anticipate providing a small update during the November convention, but the final report will most likely be shared as a webinar.

Themes will be pulled from collected information to create a summary documenting lessons learned from the initiative. This document will also be shared with the COLLN members as they consider next steps for achieving CI.

How long will the PLN's be in effect? If calls are missed will notes be provided?

The PLN will continue through January 2016.

Each PLN group will have a built-in template to capture summary information such as the main takeaways and any targeted questions that require external research. These summaries will most likely be shared with and available to the group.

At this point, a consensus hasn't been reached in regards to the possibility of recording each session. This decision can, perhaps, be decided by each group.

Is the Action Plan synonymous with the Implementation plan?

Yes.

What was the mileage mentioned for the Border Area?

The border definition provided in the RFA is 100 km (62 miles) from the border. Any grantees operating within that distance from the US/Mexico border qualify for the border PLN group.

Any grantees participating in the border group should already know whether or not they qualify as a border grantee. If any questions remain around this, grantees are encouraged to speak with their PO for clarification.

Will the toolbox include instruments new CANs can use to measure progress?

The toolbox will absolutely include instruments available to both new and already-established CANs. Included in the toolbox are evaluation best practices in recognition of the need to document success in implementing CANs and achieving CI.