



TA & Support Center News & Updates

Deadlines:

- Dec 30 [StoryWork Project Application Due](#)
- Jan 6 [Fourth Trimester Cohort Application Due](#)
- Jan 6 [Fatherhood Cohort Application Due](#)
- Jan 15 HSMED-II Report (CSV or XML) Due

Events:

- Jan 10 [Fatherhood Talk Tuesday](#)
- Jan 10 Community Engagement Cohort Meeting #4 – *Community Engagement cohort members only*
- Jan 11 Breastfeeding Cohort Meeting #5 - *BF cohort members only*
- Jan 17 Healthy Start COIN Meeting – *COIN members only*
- Jan 20 StoryWork Project Workshop #1 – *StoryWork Project members only*
- Jan 23 4th Trimester Cohort Meeting #1 – *4th Trimester cohort members only*
- Jan 24 Fatherhood Cohort Meeting #1 - *Fatherhood cohort members only*

Application Deadline 12/30: StoryWork Project

The Healthy Start TA & Support Center (TASC) is thrilled to be partnering with Dr. Janelle Palacios to host the StoryWork Project, an accelerated, intensive workshop experience. The StoryWork Project series will include workshops on five Fridays from January through March, during which participants will discover how American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) maternal and child health has been shaped through historical policies aimed at assimilating and disenfranchising AI/AN people from land, resources, culture, religion, community, and family. Participants will also discover their respective local native history and learn how to integrate this historical knowledge and shape community anchor stories that will stir up empathy and effect change. Learners will engage in active discussions during each workshop and will complete assignments between workshops, which will guide them through the process of melding history and storytelling to tell their own stories and to reshape narratives around BIPOC health.

The TASC provided an introduction to the StoryWork Project during a kick-off webinar on December 8th. If you missed the kick-off, please click [here](#) to view the recording. **To apply to participate in the StoryWork Project, please [click here](#). The application deadline is COB Friday, December 30, 2022.**

If you have any questions about the StoryWork Project or the application, please email healthystart@nichq.org.

Application Deadline 1/6: Spring 2023 Cohorts

The deadline to complete the applications for the two Spring Healthy Start (HS) cohorts – a Fatherhood Cohort and a Fourth Trimester Cohort – is **COB Friday, January 6**. HS cohorts provide space and place for HS grantees to come together to learn about what others are doing, document promising practices, and co-create tools and resources for the broader community. Below are descriptions of the two Spring 2023 cohorts.

Spring 2023 Fatherhood Cohort

The goal of the Fatherhood Cohort is to convene HS grantees to create shared best practices for involving, connecting and engaging fathers along the MCH continuum and achieving the goal of enrolling 100 fathers in the HS program. The Fatherhood Cohort will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 1-2:30 p.m. ET (12-1:30 p.m. CT/10-11:30 a.m. PT). The cohort will run from January through May 2023 with meetings on 1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, and 5/23. **To access the application, please [click here](#).**

Spring 2023 Fourth Trimester Cohort

The goal of the Fourth Trimester Cohort is to convene HS grantees to create shared best practices for supporting mothers, birthing people, and fathers/partners during the postpartum period, also known as the fourth trimester. The Fourth Trimester Cohort will meet on the fourth Monday of each month from 1-2:30 p.m. ET (12-1:30 p.m. CT/10-11:30 a.m. PT). The cohort will run from January through May 2023 with meetings on 1/23, 2/27, 3/27, 4/24, and 5/22. **To access the application, [please click here.](#)**

Fatherhood Talk Tuesday

Happy Holidays! The TASC is excited to kickstart the new year with January's Fatherhood Talk Tuesday on January 10 from 3-4:30 p.m. ET which will discuss all of the TASC's exciting upcoming activities and offerings around fatherhood. We will also have an opportunity for grantees to share what they're looking forward to and what TASC can do to support them in 2023.

See you all there! **Register [here.](#)**

New Learning Academies!

New year, new activities! The TASC is excited to launch two brand new Learning Academies in the month of January - **Co-Parenting** and **Community Engagement!** Learning Academies are a great way to take a deeper dive into the featured topic with monthly lectures, readings, and group activities. Similar to past Learning Academies, the TASC will be partnering with subject-matter experts to lead these sessions as the Learning Academy Dean.

More information about current and past TASC Learning Academies can be found on the [HS EPIC website](#). Keep an eye out for more information about the new Learning Academies in early January!

In Case You Missed it...

New Podcast! Power Podcast for Justice

The TASC, in partnership with Dr. Linda Henderson-Smith, a consultant with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, was thrilled to launch our very first podcast series – **Power Podcast for Justice** – in November! Hosted by the TASC's Kenn Harris and Dr. Linda, Power Podcast for Justice is a vehicle to uplift conversations aimed to move the HS community – and others in the maternal and child health field – towards action.

In the inaugural episode, Kenn and Dr. Linda are joined by Dr. Janelle Palacios, a practicing nurse midwife in northern California and a consultant working to help people understand how history shapes maternal and infant outcomes, particularly among Native American people. Dr. Linda, Kenn, and Janelle discuss historical trauma – why it is important to address, how it impacts communities and drives disparities, and how it manifests in individuals and in communities – as well as what

resilience and triumph look like. [Click here to listen to Episode 1 of the Power Podcast for Justice now.](#) We can't wait for you to join the conversation!

TASC's Year in Review

It is hard to believe it is almost 2023 and there are 1.5 years left in this grant cycle! The TASC has been honored to serve as your technical assistance center and to provide support to the 101 HS projects who have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of women, infants, fathers, families, and communities this year. We wanted to take this opportunity to pause and reflect on the past year and provide an overview of our offerings thus far. As always, the recordings and resources from the TASC's previous offerings are posted on [the EPIC website](#) and we encourage you to look back at any activities you missed and share the links with your fellow HS staff.

The TASC was busy this past year providing a variety of offerings to HS grantees. From Networking Cafés to Learning Academies, the TASC works to offer different types of programming around a range of topics to support HS projects in better serving their clients. The TASC's offerings are largely informed by you – the HS grantees – and the information you provide during the Annual Assessments, through 1:1 TA requests, and to your Project Officers. We look forward to continuing to provide responsive, tailored technical assistance and support to you in the coming year and seeing your tremendous commitment and dedication to this important work.

Below are some highlights of our activities from 2022:

Cohorts

In early 2022, the TASC launched four spring cohorts, which focused on topics that align with the HS benchmarks and approaches: Community Action Networks (CAN), Evaluation, Fatherhood, and Recruitment & Retention. The cohorts are application-based groups and consists of a series of five meetings where participants engage in discussions around agreed upon objectives. Throughout the five months, the cohort members and TASC collaborated to create artifacts with key takeaways and learning from each cohort series. [Click here](#) to view the cohort artifacts from the spring 2022 cohorts. The fall 2022 cohorts, focused on Breastfeeding and Community Engagement, are wrapping up soon, so keep an eye out for more artifacts in spring 2023!

Networking Cafés

The TASC provides some offerings that are open to all HS grantees, including the Networking Café. The Networking Cafés provide a space and place for grantees to connect on a certain topic, share challenges and successes, and brainstorm solutions. The TASC held several Networking Café's this year. Click the links below to view the session recordings:

- [Community Action Networks](#)
- [Client Recruitment, Cancellations, & No-Shows](#)
- [Fathers & Partners Part 1](#)
- [Fathers & Partners Part 2](#)
- [Social Media & Content Creation Part 1](#)
- [Social Media & Content Creation Part 2](#)

[Staff Recruitment & Retention](#)

Equity Activities

The TASC regularly provides offerings to support HS grantees in addressing the equity issues that many HS communities face, such as racism and discrimination, social and structural determinants, and historical trauma. Below are some of the TASC's recent activities related to equity:

- The TASC was thrilled to support the 21 HS grantees who received MCHB's Infant Health Equity Supplement. The TASC provided technical assistance to help these grantees develop action plans – which include innovative data-driven policy and systems level strategies – to address the social and structural determinants of health that impact infant mortality disparities in HS communities. This included a series of webinars and a toolkit, developed in partnership with Ronda Zakocs of Insight for Action. To culminate the action plan creation process, the TASC hosted a showcase event to celebrate the accomplishments of the 21 grantees and to share the resources and lessons learned from this process with the wider HS community. To view the webinar and showcase recordings, Action Planning Toolkit, and other resources, [please click here](#).
- Throughout 2022, the TASC continued to host webinars as part of the Equity Table series. The Equity Table is a webinar series aimed at exploring the racism and inequities communities of color face in the United States, today and historically. Specifically, this series focuses on the persistent disparities seen among Black and Native communities, both in maternal and child health outcomes and beyond. The series features a round-table discussion with subject matter experts who bring their ideas and reflections to the Equity Table. The sessions explore major topics impacting the health and well-being of people of color (e.g., mass incarceration, voting rights). This year's session's focused on [Equity for Mothers in MCH](#) and [Fatherhood in the Age of Mass Incarceration](#).
- Between April and August 2022, the TASC hosted a Learning Academy in partnership with Jessica Roach and Dorian Wingard of Reaching Our Own Through Transformation (ROOTT). The ROOTT Learning Academy was created to support HS grantees in developing a progressive understanding of the structural determinants of health and how they have led to the consequences of unmet social determinants of health. The course examined how policy development and institutional systems have created health inequities that oppress Black families in the maternal and infant health space and beyond. To view the recordings from the series, please [click here](#).

Fatherhood Activities

Given that fatherhood is a new component of the HS program in this funding cycle, the TASC has intentionally provided various offerings to support grantees as they work to involve fathers in this traditionally maternal and infant focused space. In addition to the individualized support offered through 1:1 TA and the application-based fatherhood cohort, the TASC provides support for all grantees through webinars and trainings:

- In February 2022, the TASC's Kenn Harris and Ken Scarborough of NHSA

hosted the [third part of the Building a Successful Fatherhood Program training series](#). This series is focused on integrating dads into the HS program through inclusion and involvement, connection, and engagement. Check out all three sessions in the series, as well as the correlating worksheets on [the Fatherhood Resources page here](#).

- In June 2022, the TASC hosted its first-ever [Fatherhood Evaluation Workshop](#) with Yale's School of Medicine's Director of the Program on Male Development, Dr. Derrick Gordon! The workshop helped HS grantees capture fatherhood data that tells their program's unique story while also building individuals' skills so that data collected meets MCH's needs.
- The TASC also hosts Fatherhood Talk Tuesday (FTT), a webinar series focused on fathers and their role in maternal and infant outcomes. In 2022, eight FTT webinars were held. Click the links below to check out the webinar recordings and materials:
 - [March Fatherhood Talk Tuesday](#) - Doug Edwards from Real Dads Forever presented the first session in a three-part series on Fatherhood and Equity and its connection to maternal and infant mortality.
 - [April Fatherhood Talk Tuesday](#) - Doug Edwards from Real Dads Forever returned to present the second session in a three-part series on Fatherhood and Equity and its connection to maternal and infant mortality.
 - [June Fatherhood Talk Tuesday](#) - In June, FTT celebrated and uplifted fathers in honor of Men's Health Month and Father's Day! The webinar featured the "Fatherhood Discussion" session from TASC's [ROOT Learning Academy](#) by Deans Jessica Roach and Dorian Wingard.
 - [July Fatherhood Talk Tuesday](#) - Doug Edwards from Real Dads Forever returned to FTT to present the final session of his three-part series on Fatherhood and Equity and its connection to maternal and infant mortality. This session recapped the entire series and discussed the importance of framing, marketing, and tools to better support fatherhood programming.
 - [September Fatherhood Talk Tuesday](#) - In honor of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month, TASC invited public health advocate and infant safe sleep expert, [Stacy Scott](#), to share her insights, findings, and resources that fathers can utilize to better understand infant mortality. Reginald Van Appelen from Los Angeles County's HS also presented on strategies, programming insights, and lessons learned.
 - [October Fatherhood Talk Tuesday](#) - For the October FTT, TASC invited Yale's Dr. Derrick Gordon to speak about mental health and positive parenting in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Attendees also heard from fellow grantee, Darrell Howell Pee Dee HS, who presented on strategies, programming insights, and lessons learned.
 - [November Fatherhood Talk Tuesday](#) - The November FTT was dedicated to celebrating and honoring Native American Heritage Month and highlighted the importance of Native American heritage – including its rich and distinct ancestry, traditions, and history – and how that heritage can be reflected in the work and services offered throughout HS communities. Attendees also heard from fellow grantee, Onaje Muid from the Foundation for Delaware County, who presented strategies, programming insights, and lessons learned.

Looking Ahead to 2023

The TASC is looking forward to kick starting 2023 with a variety of new offerings! As mentioned previously, the TASC has several applications open for upcoming activities including:

- **December 30 Deadline:**
 - The StoryWork Project – [click here to complete the application](#)
- **January 6 Deadline:**
 - The Fourth Trimester Spring Cohort- [click here to complete the application](#)
 - The Fatherhood Spring Cohort- [click here to complete the application](#)

Additionally, the TASC will be launching two Learning Academies in January, which are open to all HS grantees. Please check back here for more information in early January 2023:

- [Community Engagement Learning Academy](#)
- [Co-Parenting Learning Academy](#)

TASC looks forward to launching additional activities in February and beyond. To stay in the loop about the TASC's offerings, make sure you are subscribed to the newsletter. If you have questions or would like to sign up for the newsletter, please email healthystart@nichq.org. We hope to see you at some of these activities and until then, we wish you and your loved ones a peaceful, safe, and relaxing holiday season!

Other Resources:

Donor Human Milk

The National Conference of State Legislators recently released a new policy brief around donor human milk. The brief explores the current barriers to accessing donor milk and what some states are doing to limit these barriers. To learn more, [please click here](#).



Hosting or attending an exciting event or webinar?

We will use the EPIC Center [Training Calendar](#) to share information about events specifically planned for Healthy Start projects, as well as other relevant webinars, trainings, and other events that are open to the public. If you know of events or trainings that you think other Healthy Start projects should be aware of, please feel free to send information to healthystart@nichq.org.

Have questions? Either respond to this email or contact the sender on

healthystart@nichq.org

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