

Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project NEWSLETTER



Strengthening Healthy Start to support family health and well-being

TA & Support Center News & Updates

Deadlines:

June 15 HSMED-II Report (CSV or XML) Due

Events:

June 13 Fatherhood Talk Tuesday

June 14 Catalyst for Infant Health Equity Webinar – *Catalyst grantees only*

June 20 COIN Meeting - *COIN members only*

June 27 Community Engagement Learning Academy

Healthier Outcomes in Preeclampsia Webinar

The Healthy Start TA & Support Center (TASC) is partnering with the [Preeclampsia Foundation](#) to host the Healthier Outcomes in Preeclampsia webinar today, Wednesday, May 31 from 3-4:30 pm ET. The Preeclampsia Foundation works to improve outcomes of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy like preeclampsia, HELLP syndrome, and eclampsia by educating, supporting and engaging the affected community, improving healthcare practices, and finding a cure.

During this webinar, participants will learn about:

- Risk factors, signs and symptoms of preeclampsia

- Diagnosis and management of preeclampsia, including the importance of blood pressure measurement
- Postpartum preeclampsia
- Patient advocacy and empowering patient voices

To register for the webinar, please click [here](#).

In Case You Missed it...

Maternal Mental Health in the Media & Beyond

The TASC was pleased to partner with subject-matter expert, Dr. Megan Smith, DrPH, MPH to host the Maternal Mental Health in the Media & Beyond webinar on Dr. Smith is the Senior Director of Community Health Transformation at the Connecticut Hospital Association and former founder of the MOMS Partnership, a program now being replicated nationally, which focuses on improving mental health as a pathway to economic and social mobility.

During this webinar, participants learned to:

- Identify misconceptions and stereotypes related to common media portrayals of perinatal mental health disorders.
- Identify and utilize strategies for referrals on around emotional distress that you can be implemented with mothers, fathers, and families.
- Identify additional resources for support in addressing perinatal mental health disorders.
- Enhance empathic discussion with mothers around emotional distress.

To watch the recording, please click [here](#).

Community Engagement Learning Academy

The TASC hosted the fourth session of the Community Engagement Learning Academy this month! Community engagement is fundamental to the success of Healthy Start's Community Action Networks (CANs). The Community Engagement Learning Academy allows Healthy Start grantees to participate in an extensive study into community engagement, including strategies for practical application in local contexts. Using several evidence-based frameworks, participants identify approaches to support their project and community in spurring systemic change. With assistance from the Learning Academy's Dean, Danette McLaurin Glass of First TEAM America, grantees develop concrete strategies for establishing and implementing their community engagement plan. Participants also have the

opportunity to apply basic community engagement principles, culminating in a tool to empower their community to achieve sustainable and systemic change.

The fourth session focused on “Implementing and Managing a Community Engagement Plan. **To watch the recording, check back [here](#) later this week.**

Co-Parenting Learning Academy

The TASC hosted the final session of the Co-Parenting Learning Academy this month. The goal of the Co-Parenting Learning Academy was to examine the breadth and depth of social welfare policy in the 20th and 21st centuries while exploring the policies and practices that have influenced the focus on mothers and children and have excluded fathers from family support systems, and redefining “co-parenting” as it has been integrated into current MCH practices. With Co-Parenting Learning Academy Dean, Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, CEO of the National Partnership for Community Leadership (NPCL), folks discussed the topic “Assessing Co-Relationships and Planning Co-Parenting Agreements.”

To watch webinar recording, check back [here](#) later this week.

A Stark Rise in Maternal Mortality

In 2021, [maternal mortality in the U.S. rose significantly](#) compared to previous years. A [recently released Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) report](#) found that 1,205 women died from maternal causes in 2021, a dramatic increase from the 861 women who succumbed to maternal death in 2020 and the 754 women in 2019. Though the overall maternal mortality rate has risen rapidly, the report highlighted that specific groups of women were at a higher risk of maternal death.

Age played a factor; the maternal mortality among women ages 40 and over is 6.8 times higher than the rate among those under age 25. As the Healthy Start community knows too well, there is also a stark racial difference in mortality rates. Non-Hispanic Black women were 2.6 times more likely to die during pregnancy or the postpartum period than non-Hispanic White women. In response to this report, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) President, Tochi Iroku-Malize, MD, MPH, stated that “these data reinforce the urgent need for achieving birth equity and addressing health disparities among Black, Indigenous and other pregnant people of color.”

Every day, the Healthy Start community is actively engaged in work to reduce inequities in maternal, child, and family health outcomes. One example is [Healthy Start Brooklyn](#), which recently published an [report on the impact of their community-based doula program](#). The report aimed to assess whether Healthy Start Brooklyn's By My Side Birth Support Program was associated with improved birth outcomes. Researchers found that By My Side participants had lower odds of having a preterm birth or a low-birthweight baby compared to birthing people who did not participate in the By My Side program. They also found that there was no statistically significant difference in the odds of cesarean delivery between By My Side participants and non-participants. The researchers concluded that investing in doula services is an important way to address birth inequities among communities that are at a higher risk of adverse outcomes, such as birthing People of Color and those living in poverty. To read the full report, [please click here](#). Healthy Start Brooklyn also discussed the By My Side Program during the TASC's Change Ideas to Grow, Nurture, and Lift (CIGNAL) for Maternal Mortality and Morbidity (MMM) webinar. This webinar discussed the maternal health continuum of care, challenges that the grantees are facing in addressing MMM, and potential strategies to reduce MMM. To watch the recording of that webinar, please click [here](#).

Healthy Start projects are uniquely positioned to test and implement new strategies to improve maternal health outcomes and work to achieve health equity among communities around the country. If you are interested in sharing your project's innovations and interventions to address MMM, and being featured in a future newsletter, please email healthystart@nichq.org. If your Healthy Start project would like support in testing and implementing strategies to address MMM, [please submit a TA request](#) for individualized assistance from a TASC subject matter expert.

Fatherhood Corner

Fathers play an essential role not only in the lives of their families, but in improving both infant and maternal health outcomes. In recognition of this, the Healthy Start program began intentionally engaging and enrolling dads beginning in 2019. Kenn Harris, Vice President of Engagement & Community Partnerships and the Executive Director of the TASC, recently wrote a [blog posted about father inclusion](#) for the Fathers and Families Coalition of America. The blog delves into the importance of involving dads in maternal child health work and how to advocate for and begin make space for dads.

If your Healthy Start project would like support in making your space more father-friendly and in engaging and enrolling dads into your program, [please submit a TA request](#) for individualized assistance from the TASC team.

Other Resources

NOW AVAILABLE: \$11 Million in Funding for Healthy Start Initiative-Enhanced

The FY23 application for the [Healthy Start Initiative – Enhanced \(HSE\)](#) is now open on grants.gov. The purpose of the HSE is to improve health outcomes before, during, and after pregnancy and reduce racial/ethnic differences in rates of infant death and adverse perinatal outcomes. There is **\$11,000,000 available for up to 10 awards.**

The program uses two approaches:

- Providing direct and enabling services (screening and referrals, care coordination, parenting education, etc.) to HSE participants; and
- Establishing *Community Consortia* (formerly known as Community Action Networks [CANs]) made up of diverse, multi-sector partners that advise and inform HSE activities.

HSE project areas are expected to be communities experiencing rates of infant mortality, low birth weight or preterm birth that are 1.5X the national average or greater and that do not already have access to Healthy Start services.

Any domestic public or private entity can apply. Domestic faith-based and community-based organizations, Tribes, and tribal organizations are also eligible to apply. Please note: Recipients of *Healthy Start Initiative: Eliminating Disparities in Perinatal Health (HRSA-19-049)* are eligible to apply for this grant but should propose a new project area.

Applications are due by July 17, 2023. [View this NOFO flyer for additional info.](#)

HRSA is deeply committed to using community-based approaches to support pregnant people and parents with young children. They are especially focused on those who live in communities that face greater risks and barriers to achieving positive health outcomes. HRSA encourages you and your organizations to share the above funding information widely. Please visit their website for additional [open funding opportunities.](#)

Executive Order on Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through The Federal Government

In his early days as President, Joe Biden signed an executive order on advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the federal government. [In February 2023, the White House released a new Executive Order](#) that discussed the work done under the original executive order and outlines additional actions to take to continue to advance racial equity in the U.S. Actions include: establishing equity-focused leadership across the federal government; delivering equitable outcomes through government policies, programs, and activities; embedding equity into government-wide processes; delivering equitable outcomes in partnership with underserved communities; creating economic opportunity in rural America and advancing urban equitable development; advancing equitable procurement; affirmatively advancing civil rights; and further advancing equitable data practices.

Federal Communications Commission Programs

The [Federal Communications Commission](#) (FCC) launched the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#), which aims to ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more. A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#), or if a member of the household meets at least *one* of the FCC-listed criteria. To learn more about the program and eligibility guidelines and to enroll, [please click here](#).

[Lifeline](#) is another FCC program that helps make communications services more affordable for low-income consumers by providing subscribers a discount on qualifying monthly telephone service, broadband Internet service, or bundled voice-broadband packages purchased from participating wireline or wireless providers. To participate in the Lifeline program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) or participate in certain federal assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, the Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit, or certain Tribal Programs. To learn more the Lifeline program, [please click here](#).

Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers

On April 18, 2023 the White House released an [Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers](#). The order directs Congress to provide the transformative investments necessary to increase access

to high-quality child care — including preschool and Head Start — and long-term care services, as well as high-quality, well-paying jobs that reflect the value the care workforce provides to families and communities. Such investments include removing barriers and providing the funding needed for Tribal Nations to effectively provide high-quality child care and long-term care. Additionally, the order directs executive departments and agencies to do what they can within their existing authorities to boost the supply of high-quality early care and education and long-term care and to provide support for family caregivers. This includes making all efforts to improve jobs and support for caregivers, increase access to affordable care for families, and provide more care options for families.

Breastfeeding Hotlines

There are a number of hotlines available to support lactating people and their support systems throughout their breastfeeding journey. The [National Women's Health and Breastfeeding Helpline](#) is run by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health. The [Appalachian Breastfeeding Network Hotline](#) is also available to any lactating people, regardless of their location.

There are also a number of state-based and regional breastfeeding hotlines, such as:

- [Arizona Breastfeeding Hotline](#)
- [Arkansas WIC Breastfeeding Helpline](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health Women's Health Hotline](#)
- [Louisiana Partners for Healthy Baby Line](#)
- [Michigan Lactation Warm Line](#)
- [North Carolina Breastfeeding Support Line](#)
- [Oklahoma Breastfeeding Hotline](#)
- [South Dakota WIC Hotline](#)
- [Tennessee Breastfeeding Hotline](#)
- [Texas Lactation Hotline](#)
- [Utah Mother to Baby Hotline](#)

SNAP & WIC Regional Contact

Need to get in touch with the [WIC](#) or [SNAP](#) program? [This list](#) contains contact information for regional SNAP and WIC offices.

FindTreatment.gov

[Findtreatment.gov](#) is a confidential and anonymous resource for people seeking treatment for mental and substance use disorders in the United States and its

territories. The website has a treatment facility locator, as well as descriptions of different treatment options, information about the cost of treatment and payment options, and support for understanding addiction and mental illness.



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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