



TA & Support Center News & Updates

Deadlines:

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

Events:

Oct 5 Tools for Community Transformation Workshop #1

Oct 10 Fatherhood Talk Tuesday

Oct 11 Catalyst for IHE Webinar – *Catalyst supplement recipients only*

Oct 19 Catalyst for IHE: MOVE Framework Networking Café – *Catalyst supplement recipients only*

Oct 31 Networking Cafe: MOVE Framework

NACCHO Workshop Series: Tools for Community Transformation

The Healthy Start TA & Support Center (TASC) is excited to partner with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to host a monthly, virtual Workshop Series: Tools for Community Transformation. The goal of this interactive series is to improve HS programs' overall performance, including increasing their Community Action Networks' (CAN) capacity around leadership, partnership development, community engagement, and sustainability. More information about the workshop series, including the full schedule and topics, can be found [here](#).

To register for the first workshop on Thursday, October 5 from 2-2:45 pm ET, [please click here](#).

Fatherhood Talk Tuesday

Happy Fall! We at the TASC are welcoming this new season with moments of reflection, thoughtfulness, and gratitude. For this month's Fatherhood Talk Tuesday, TASC has invited Tamara Hunter, LPC, to speak on mental health and emotional wellness in observance of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month and World Mental Health Day.

Join us for this session on **Tuesday, October 10 from 3-4:30 pm ET**. To register, please [click here](#)!

In Case You Missed it...

Conversations with the Division

Earlier this week, the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services (DHSPS) hosted Conversations with the Division. During this webinar, DHSPS staff shared key updates and information for Healthy Start grantees. **To watch the recording, please check back [here](#) early next week.**

Networking Café: Hybrid Meeting Engagement

In response to technical assistance requests received from Healthy Start grantees, the Healthy Start TASC hosted a networking café focused on hybrid meeting engagement. Attendees had a chance to discuss any challenges or successes that they have experienced in engaging participants in hybrid meetings and share any ideas and strategies with one another. **To watch the recording, please check**

back [here](#) early next week.

2023 Cohort Showcase Event

Earlier this month, the TASC held a **2023 Healthy Start Cohort Showcase Event** to celebrate the 2023 cohort members and their accomplishments. This event was open to the entire HS community and was an opportunity to hear from the cohort co-leads about the artifacts they created, and their reflections and lessons learned from the cohort. There was also an opportunity for attendees to network during the event. **To watch the recording from the Cohort Showcase Event, [please click here](#).**

Fatherhood Talk Tuesday

In honor of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month, the **TASC's September Fatherhood Talk Tuesday** discussed insights, findings, and resources that fathers can utilize to better understand and prevent infant mortality. **To view the webinar recording, [please click here](#).**



National Infant Mortality Awareness Month

September is [National Infant Mortality Awareness Month](#) – a time to honor and bring awareness to the babies that do not survive through their first birthday. Though the United States saw a [decrease in the infant mortality rate](#) from 2009 to 2019, almost [20,000 infants](#) died in 2021 alone, [a 2% increase](#) from the previous year. As Healthy Start communities know too well, racial disparities persist in infant mortality.

According to [CDC data](#), non-Hispanic Black babies are over twice as likely as non-Hispanic white babies to pass away before their first birthday. Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native also have lower survival rates. While our goal is to decrease infant mortality rates across the board, we must pay special attention to racial disparities in infant health outcomes and target the systems and policies that are driving these disparities.

During the recent Healthy Start Regional Meetings, Dr. Warren – the Associate Administrator of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau – discussed the many non-clinical factors that contribute to infant mortality. These include social determinants of health, economic and social policies, racism, discrimination, bias, and

segregation. He explained that we must do things differently to advance this work further – we must *accelerate upstream together*. Healthy Start communities are so well poised to do this work because they know their communities so well. Each Community Action Network (CAN) is designed to listen to the community and lift up their realities, needs, and wishes. Healthy Start engages communities that are most effected by this issue, providing the opportunity to learn from lived experience and infuse those learnings into the services Healthy Start programs provide. As Dr. Warren shared, “none of us can do this work alone.” To watch Dr. Warren’s full welcome from the Regional Meetings, [please click here](#).

Compass by March of Dimes

[March of Dimes](#) created a new [app](#) that supports parents in their journey from pregnancy through postpartum, by providing information and resources. Tools include journals and trackers, a glossary of terms commonly used during the perinatal period, a community and resource library, and more.

Infant Mortality Toolkit

Georgetown University’s National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) created the [MCH Digital Library](#). The library contains a variety of resources and toolkits, including this [infant mortality toolkit](#) created by the National SUID/SIDS Resource Center. The toolkit outlines strategies for addressing infant mortality using a public health approach.

Infant Loss Resources

[Postpartum Support International](#) (PSI) has several resources addressing [loss and grief in pregnancy and postpartum](#). They also run a [peer mentor program](#) for parents struggling with perinatal mental health challenges to connect directly with others that have had similar experiences.

Fetal Infant Mortality Review Webinars

The [National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention](#) (National Center) hosts approximately six webinars each year on topics relevant to fatality review. Check out their [three upcoming webinars](#) this fall or watch recordings of their recent [webinars focused on SUID prevention](#) hosted in partnership with American Academy of Pediatrics.

Reducing Infant Deaths in the Sleep Environment

One of the leading causes of infant mortality is sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Last summer, the TASC hosted a training on Safe Sleep Practices and National Trends for Risk Reduction in partnership with [the GISS Center](#). Watch the [recording](#) of the training, review the [training kit](#), and

Stillbirth and Infant Loss Support Group

[Empty Arms](#) offers bereavement support for parents experiencing miscarriage, stillbirth, termination for medical reasons, or infant loss. Offerings include a [monthly stillbirth and infant loss support group](#), as well as resources for [parents](#) and [family and friends](#). The organization is

read the accompanying [artifact](#).

committed to meeting families exactly where they are in their journey.

Cribs for Kids' Safe Sleep Academy

[The Safe Sleep Academy](#) was developed by the Cribs for Kids' National Infant Safe Sleep Initiative. The Academy provides resources and education around safe sleep, baby care, and child development. The website features an "[Ask the Pediatrician](#)" tool, which allows parents to submit questions around safe sleep. The website can also connect parents with a [Cribs for Kids Partner](#) in their area who can provide them with a safe, portable crib.

Pregnancy After Loss App

[Pregnancy After Loss Support \(PALS\)](#) is a non-profit organization and community support resource for people who are pregnant again after experiencing a loss. PALS developed an [app](#) designed to support mothers and their partners in navigating this journey, which may be filled with confusing and conflicting emotions of joy and grief.



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. Check out the Healthy Start TASC's [fatherhood resources](#) to learn more about how the TASC is supporting Healthy Start grantees to serve the dads in their communities.

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.



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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