



TA & Support Center News & Updates

October/November Healthy Start Events & Deadlines

Deadlines:

- Nov 5 [CLC Scholarship Application Due](#)
- Nov 15 HSMED-II Report (CSV or XML) Due

Events:

- Oct 21 [CAN Learning Academy Session #6](#)
- Oct 26 [Fatherhood Learning Academy Session #4](#)
- Oct 27 Infant Health Equity Supplement Webinar - *IHE Supplement Recipients only*
- Nov 3-5 [2021 Healthy Start Virtual Grantees' Meeting](#)
- Nov 15 TIROE CoP Learning Session #7 – *COP members only*
- Nov 17 Infant Health Equity Supplement Webinar – *IHE Supplement Recipients only*
- Nov 18 [Beyond COVID-19: Breastfeeding Webinar #2](#)
- Nov 23 [Fatherhood Learning Academy Session #5](#)

Registration Open: Virtual Healthy Start Grantees' Meeting

On behalf of HRSA/MCHB's Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services, and in partnership with the National Healthy Start Association, the Healthy Start TA & Support Center looks forward to hosting the 2021 Healthy Start Virtual Grantees' Meeting (VGM) on November 3, 4, and 5! The VGM will provide an opportunity for Healthy Start staff to virtually come together to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Healthy Start program; and to strengthen Healthy Start program operations, workforce, and performance to reduce infant and maternal mortality and eliminate disparities.

We will convene from 11:15 am – 5:00 pm ET each day on November 3, 4, and 5, with optional networking, mindfulness, and engagement sessions in the mornings and evenings. There will also be an optional preconference "Equity Table" session on Tuesday, November 2 at 6:00 pm ET. The [EPIC website](#) will be regularly updated with important information about the meeting. In the weeks leading up to the meeting, you will also receive information about signing up for and using the virtual conference platform, [Whova](#).

To register for the Virtual Grantees' Meeting, [please click here](#). Please share this link with your fellow Healthy Start program staff, including Evaluators/Data Leads, CAN Coordinators, Fatherhood Coordinators, front line workers, consumers, etc.

CLC Scholarship Application

With support from the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services (DHSPS), the Healthy Start TA & Support Center (TASC) is pleased to be able to provide Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) training scholarships for 40 Healthy Start Grantees. Due to COVID, Healthy Children Project's Center for Breastfeeding is offering its intensive in-person 5-day CLC training certification course as a self-paced online course. TASC will cover the cost of the online training registration and the textbook for selected applicants. For more information, [please click here](#). **To access the application, [please click here](#). Applications are due by COB Friday, 11/5.**

CAN Learning Academy Session #6

Please join TASC for the **final session in the six-part Community Action Network (CAN) Learning Academy on Thursday, October 21 from 2-4 p.m. EST.** Healthy Start (HS) Learning Academies provide an opportunity for grantees to participate in a series of monthly lectures and complete assignments designed to build their knowledge and develop core skills around specific topics. **To access the slides and recording from the previous sessions, [please click here](#). To register for the final session, [please click here](#).**

Fatherhood Learning Academy Session #4

Please join TASC for the **fourth session in the Fatherhood Learning Academy on Tuesday, October 26 from 2-4 p.m. ET.** The goal of the Fatherhood Learning Academy is to examine the breadth and depth of the fatherhood movement in the 20th and 21st century, and to deeply examine the policies and practices that have influenced fatherhood programming. The Fatherhood Learning Academy is led by Dean Dr. Jeffrey Johnson of the National Partnership for Community Leadership (NPCL), and will run through November 2021. **To access the slides and recording from the previous sessions, [please click here](#). To register for the fourth session, [please click here](#).**

In Case You Missed it...

Fatherhood Talk Tuesday

On October 12, TASC hosted the monthly Fatherhood Talk Tuesday webinar. During this session, Kenn Harris, Director of TASC, discussed fatherhood within Healthy Start and checked in with grantees to see how their fatherhood work is going at this time. Fatherhood resources and upcoming events were also shared with participants. **To access the slides and recording from this session, [please click here](#).**

October: Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness and SIDS Awareness

October is a busy time in the maternal and child health world, as it marks both [Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month](#) and [Sudden Infant Death Syndrome \(SIDS\) Awareness Month](#). Both campaigns seek to acknowledge the unique grief

experienced by parents who lose pregnancies and infants; increase support for the many families who suffer these tragic losses each year; and spread awareness about preventive measures that can be taken to reduce pregnancy and infant loss, and SIDS.

Pregnancy loss includes both stillbirth and miscarriage. According to the [March of Dimes](#), miscarriage is when a baby dies in the womb before 20 weeks of pregnancy and stillbirth is when a baby dies in the womb after 20 weeks of pregnancy. The cause of many stillbirths and miscarriages is unknown; however, there are certain [steps you can take](#) before and during pregnancy to increase your chance of having a healthy baby:

- Stop smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, and using other drugs
- Avoid exposure to harmful chemicals, such as solvents (e.g., paint thinners)
- Work to achieve a healthy weight
- Be sure that certain health conditions –such as diabetes, thyroid problems, and obesity—are under control



[Infant loss](#) or infant mortality is the death of an infant before their first birthday. Each year, there are approximately 3,400 [sudden unexpected infant deaths](#) (SUIDs) – or the death of an infant within the first year of life with no obvious cause – in the U.S. SUID includes [sudden infant death syndrome](#) (SIDS), accidental suffocation in a sleeping environment, and other deaths from unknown causes. More than 1 out of 3 of SUIDs that occur each year are from SIDS. Although the exact cause of SIDS is unknown, there are ways to [reduce the risk of SIDS](#) and other sleep-related causes of infant death.

The American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) Task Force on SIDS outlined [13 actions that can be taken to reduce the risk of SIDS](#). Examples include:

1. Always place your baby on their back to sleep, during naps and at night
2. Use a firm, flat sleep surface covered by a fitted sheet with no other bedding or soft items in the sleep area
3. Share a room with your baby – but keep baby on a separate sleep surface designed for infants – for at least the first six months (ideally one year)
4. Breastfeed your baby
5. Do not smoke during pregnancy and do not allow smoking around your baby

For more general information about infant mortality – including information about the staggering racial disparities that exist in the U.S. – read the TA & Support Center's September [newsletter](#). We hope the following resources support your Healthy Start

project in sharing information and connecting families to tools to reduce their risk of pregnancy and infant loss. Please feel free to share with your Healthy Start participants.



SIDS Awareness Month Toolkit 2021

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development's (NICHD) [Safe to Sleep](#) program created [this toolkit](#) to support advocates and caregivers in encouraging safe infant sleep and preventing SIDS. The toolkit includes instructions for joining the #SafeSleepSnap photo campaign; examples of social media posts; flyers, photo frames, and a photo gallery; and guidance on addressing unsafe sleep images.

Interactive Safe Sleep Environment Tool

Safe to Sleep has created an [online interactive safe sleep environment tool](#) to teach people how to create a safe sleep environment for their baby in their home. Users can select various icons throughout the room to learn the basics of safe sleep, such as the importance of avoiding soft objects, toys, crib bumpers, or loose bedding in the baby's sleep area, crib or bassinet.

March of Dimes' Infant Loss Resources

[The March of Dimes](#) has various resources for parents who have lost a baby, including [Share Your Story](#), a free online community where parents who have lost a baby can talk to and share experiences with each other. You can also order their [free booklet, *From hurt to healing*](#), which can help readers understand and cope with grief after a miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a baby at or after birth.

Postpartum Support International (PSI) Support Groups

Each Friday at 1:30 pm ET, PSI hosts a free, online [Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support Group](#). Led by PSI trained facilitators, this group helps bereaved mothers find support as well as provides useful information and resources to help them navigate the pain of their loss. Losing a baby is often a lonely experience and this group helps provide an avenue for healing and hope.

Star Legacy Foundation's #NeverBeStill Campaign

[The Star Legacy Foundation](#) is a non-profit dedicated to reducing pregnancy loss and infant death and improving care for families who experience such tragedies. Their #NeverBeStill campaign seeks to raise awareness of pregnancy and infant loss. They

have created several [educational graphics and videos](#), which can be shared on social media to raise awareness throughout the month of October and beyond.

Prescription for Safe Sleep

The Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics developed a one-pager called the "[Prescription for Safe Sleep](#)." The concise, easy-to-read handout provides simple guidelines for parents to follow for a healthy baby and well-rested family. The handout can be printed and hung in your office or distributed to your clients.

Healthy Native Babies Project (HNBP)

NICHD—working with representatives from Tribes in the Northern Tier and others who serve AI/AN audiences—launched the [Healthy Native Babies Project](#) (HNBP) to address safe infant sleep in AI/AN communities. HNBP has created several resources specific to AI/AN communities, such as a [Safe Sleep for Your Baby Booklet](#); [Honor the Past, Learn for the Future Handout](#); and [HNBP Training Videos](#).

NICHQ Insight: Spreading Safe Sleep Messages Across Tennessee

[This NICHQ insight](#) describes how the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is implementing a multifaceted approach to teach families about safe sleep so all families can learn about safe sleep practices and more babies can sleep safely. Their work builds off of their successes and lessons learned through [the Safe Sleep Infant Mortality CoIIN](#), which aimed to improve infant safe sleep practices and reduce disparities in infant deaths.

Webinar: Integrating Breastfeeding & Safe Sleep

This webinar provided an overview of the HRSA/MCHB-funded National Action Partnership to Promote Safe Sleep Improvement and Innovation Network (NAPPSS-IIN) initiative, led by NICHQ. The speakers, Dr. Stacy Scott of NICHQ and Lorena Kaplan of NICHD discussed factors that influence parent and caregiver behaviors, and how providers can develop risk reduction strategies in partnership with families. To access the slides and recording from this webinar, [please click here](#).

Family Stories on Stillbirth

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created [several videos](#) featuring families who have lost a child to stillbirth. In the videos, families share stories, including the impact that stillbirth can have on individuals, families, and entire communities. If you are interested in sharing your own experience with stillbirth, you can also submit your story to the CDC [here](#).

Other Resources:

Call to Share Promising Practices: COVID Vaccination among Pregnant People

The CDC recently issued a [health advisory](#) recommending urgent action to increase COVID-19 vaccinations for pregnant women. The Maternal Health Learning and Innovation Center (MHLIC) focuses on presenting ideas, research, innovative programming and/or promising practices related to improving maternal health. MHLIC is currently calling for maternal health professionals to share innovative practices, programs or policies designed to increase COVID-19 vaccinations for pregnant people. MHLIC hopes to share promising practices with their national

audience through their Resource Center, blog, webinar panels, newsletters, and social media. Please [use this form](#) to share information about any practices, programs or policies you are using to address the issue.

Webinar: A National Call to Action: How Focusing on Perinatal Mental Health will Improve the Health and Well-Being of Mothers, Babies, Families, and Communities

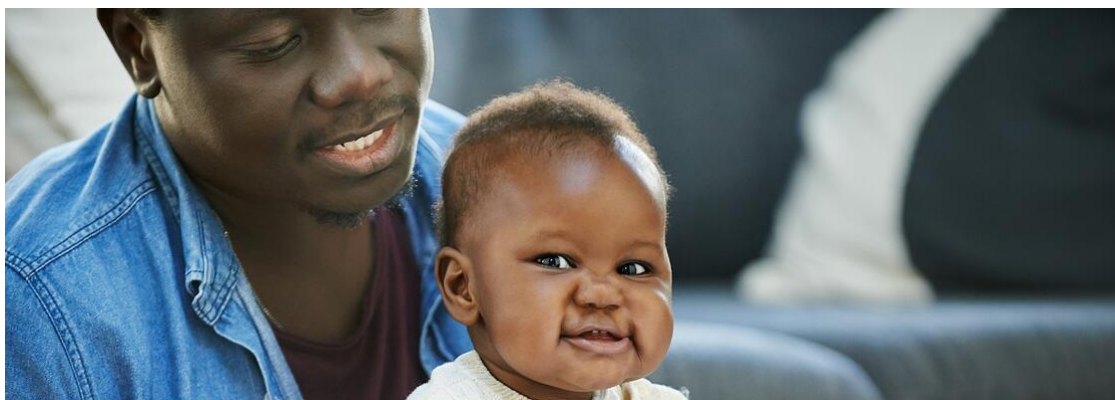
On October 14, Postpartum Support International's (PSI) [Mind the Gap](#) and the [Center for Law and Social Policy \(CLASP\)](#) hosted a webinar exploring systems and policy-level changes to promote perinatal mental health quality outcomes, particularly for people of color. The webinar described the importance of including perinatal mental health in all efforts to improve maternal health, including the impact of perinatal mental health disorders on maternal, infant, and family health. It also explored policy-level changes to support equitable perinatal mental health outcomes and shared strategies to ensure racial equity in Medicaid and other health systems. To watch the recording, [please click here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination

Vaccines are one of the most effective ways to protect your health and the health of those around you. MCHB's Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services (DHSPS) encourages you to consider opportunities to leverage your programs and partnerships to support confidence in and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines among MCH populations, for example:

- The organizing efforts, including Community Canvassing, Phone Banking, Text Banking, and Vaccination Events, will focus on what we know works best to ensure everyone has equitable vaccine access: person-to-person action that connects people with key resources and information. MCH programs can support these efforts by visiting <https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/> which includes available [resources](#) that you can use to support the communities you serve.
- Several nationwide child care providers are offering free child care to all parents and caregivers getting vaccinated or recovering from vaccination.

To learn more about estimates for vaccine hesitancy in the local communities, counties, and states you serve, visit the Office of The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation mapping tool [here](#). For more information on COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children and Teens, visit the CDC resources [here](#) and HHS' We Can Do This resources page [here](#).



Healthy Start Fatherhood Corner

TASC is excited to support Healthy Start staff in their efforts to engage fathers. To that end, we will share resources and information for Healthy Start programs and fatherhood coordinators related to fathers/partners in this “Fatherhood Corner” of the SHSPP monthly newsletter.

If you are doing work that specifically demonstrates successful inclusion of fathers in your MCH program, you are invited to share your story with us so that it can potentially be featured in the Fatherhood Corner or the new quarterly Fatherhood newsletter! Please email your stories to healthystart@nichq.org.

Funding Opportunity: Reentry Program Grants from the Bob Barker Company Foundation

The Bob Barker Company Foundation is currently offering grants for organizations working to promote successful reentry and reduce recidivism for incarcerated people. Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. *Organizations that serve a minimum of 100 incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals per year are eligible to apply. To learn more about grant eligibility and apply, [please click here](#).*

TASC Quarterly Fatherhood Newsletter

TASC will distribute the next quarterly Fatherhood newsletter in December. To access the July Fatherhood newsletter, [please click here](#). The Fatherhood newsletters will feature TASC events related to fatherhood, as well as external events and resources on the topic. This newsletter will be geared towards Fatherhood Coordinators and other Healthy Start staff who work with dads. The newsletter will highlight and promote learning opportunities, helpful resources, Healthy Start site and staff spotlights, commentary from experts, and so much more! If you or your site would like to share a success story about working with fathers in your community, please email healthystart@nichq.org.

Fatherhood Resources on the EPIC Center Website

The Healthy Start EPIC Center website is home to an abundance of resources geared to support the work of Healthy Start grantees. To further support Fatherhood work within Healthy Start, TASC has compiled all the available Fatherhood resources into one page on the website to make these resources easily accessible to grantees. To view the new Fatherhood Resources page on the EPIC website, [please click here](#).

Partner4Fatherhood (P4F)

TASC is excited to launch Partner4Fatherhood (P4F), an informal group that will bring together new and experienced Fatherhood Coordinators to connect, share wins and barriers, and discuss their Healthy Start projects’ work around fatherhood. All Healthy Start Fatherhood Coordinators and other staff who work with fathers are invited to join. In addition to serving as a fellowship opportunity with a mentoring structure, the group will allow participants to share their insights and concerns with the entire group while also being paired with another member for a more concentrated dialogue. If you are interested in participating in this group, please email healthystart@nichq.org.



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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