

Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project NEWSLETTER



Strengthening Healthy Start to support family health and well-being

TA & Support Center News & Updates

Mental Health Brochures – Now available in Spanish!

The Healthy Start TA & Support Center (TASC) is excited to announce that the Depression & Anxiety During and After Pregnancy brochures for moms and for fathers, partners, families and friends are now available in Spanish! These brochures include important information about perinatal depression, signs and symptoms to look out for, and resources available to support moms and their families. To view all available mental health brochures, please click [here](#).

In Case You Missed it...

Healthy Start Fatherhood Learning Academy Session #5

Thank you for joining the Healthy Start TASC for the final session in the Fatherhood Learning Academy on Tuesday, November 23. 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 examining the policies and practices that have influenced fatherhood programming that have either encouraged or impeded father engagement. **To view the materials from all Fatherhood Learning Academy sessions, [please click here](#).**

Fatherhood Talk Tuesday

On December 14, the Healthy Start TASC held the final Fatherhood Talk Tuesday of the year. During this session, attendees heard from Healthy Start projects that work with rural and tribal populations. The webinar also served as a year-end wrap up of fatherhood work at the TASC in 2021 and a preview of activities to come in 2022! **To view the webinar recording, [please click here](#).**

COVID-19 Vaccination Education Webinar Series

TASC partnered with Rapid Response Virtual Home Visiting (RR-VHV) and the National Healthy Start Association (NHSA) to host a webinar series on COVID-19 Vaccination Education for pregnant women and children. This webinar series provided up-to-date information on the vaccine, debunked myths and gave participants an opportunity to have your questions answered.

Equipping Frontline Staff to Encourage the COVID-19 Vaccine among Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women

On Wednesday, December 8th, TASC, NHSA and RR-VHV hosted the first webinar in the COVID-19 Vaccination Education Webinar Series. **To view the session recording, [please click here](#).**

People who are pregnant are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 as well as pregnancy complications such as preterm birth and stillbirth. For these reasons, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends COVID-19 vaccination for people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future.

However, disinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine is posing a barrier to vaccine uptake among these specific groups of people. During this webinar, the presenters shared information on how vaccines work, the risks and benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine, how variants of the virus have different health implications, data on morbidity and mortality during pregnancy due to COVID-19, as well as debunked myths that have circulated about the vaccine. The goal of this webinar was to equip frontline staff with accurate information regarding the vaccine so they can effectively encourage vaccination among their clients.

Ask the Doctors: What we have learned about COVID Vaccinations for Pregnant Women and Children

On Wednesday, December 15th, TASC, NHSA and RR-VHV hosted the second webinar in the COVID-19 Vaccination Education Webinar Series. **The session recording will be available [here](#) on the EPIC Center website next week.**

Beyond COVID-19: Breastfeeding Webinar Series

To support Healthy Start grantees in providing breastfeeding support and meeting the two breastfeeding benchmarks, the Healthy Start TA & Support Center (TASC) has launched a three-part Beyond COVID-19: Breastfeeding Webinar Series. The goal of this webinar series is to enhance and strengthen Healthy Start grantees' capacity to meet their client's breastfeeding needs as we continue to navigate the changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic. The series will feature Cathy Carothers, IBCLC, FILCA, of Every Mother, Inc, who facilitated the previous TASC's COVID-19 and Breastfeeding Webinar Series last fall.

- [Webinar 1](#) focused on building community partnerships to promote and support breastfeeding
 - [Webinar 2](#) focused on demystifying secrets of milk production
 - Webinar 3 will be focus on common challenges and complex infant breastfeeding problems
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Reflecting on the 2021 Healthy Start Virtual Grantees' Meeting

As we close another calendar year, we here at the Healthy Start TA & Support Center (TASC) find ourselves deeply grateful for our work and partnership with you – the staff and partners of the 101 Healthy Start programs. We are especially grateful for the time we were able to spend with many of you at the 2021 Healthy Start Virtual Grantees' Meeting (VGM) last month. On behalf of the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services (DHSPS), the TASC was honored to create a virtual space to bring together staff from the 101 Healthy Start projects, DHSPS, NHSA, TASC, and other partners. We hope the breakout and plenary sessions equipped you with tangible tools and knowledge to enhance and strengthen your Healthy Start project's capacity to serve participants. We also hope that the various networking activities – including Java Talks, Networking Cafés, Networking Tables, and Family Feud – allowed you to authentically engage and foster connections between projects around the nation, despite the virtual setting. Above all, we hope that the VGM provided an opportunity for you to pause and celebrate the tremendous milestone that is the 30th anniversary of Healthy Start, as well as the unwavering dedication, resilience and accomplishments of you, the Healthy Start workforce.

We were pleased that so many fantastic speakers were able to join the VGM and were willing to share their knowledge and passion for their areas of focus with the Healthy Start community. [The recordings from the breakouts and plenaries are now](#)

[available to view on the EPIC website](#). The slides for many of the sessions will be posted next week. We encourage you to view the recordings of any sessions you missed and share the recordings with any colleagues who were unable to attend. Additionally, we have compiled resources from some of our wonderful plenary speakers below. We hope that you enjoy learning more about the speakers and their work, and that this information helps support your everyday work within your Healthy Start project. Please feel free to share with your Healthy Start participants.



A Conversation on Implicit Bias with Denise Evans

[This article](#) features a conversation between blogger Dan Salerno and Denise Evans, MM, MA of Consult Me LLC, who spoke during the Equity Table round-table discussion hosted the evening before the first official day of the VGM. Denise is a trained facilitator, public health educator, and Racial Healing Circles practitioner.

During the interview, Denise discusses implicit bias, the impact of COVID-19 on biases, and strategies for counteracting implicit bias.

Black/White Equity in the Opportunity to Survive the First Year of Life... A Dream Deferred

[This webinar](#) hosted by the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (NCFRP) features Art James, MD, FACOG, who also spoke during the Equity Table. The webinar explored how the inequities in social conditions forced upon enslaved people and their

descendants provide the primary explanation for the racial disparities we see today. To access the webinar, use the password "Equity."

Decolonized Indigenous Maternal and Infant Health: Storytelling as Science

[This webinar](#) hosted by the University of California San Francisco's Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences features another Equity Table speaker, Janelle Palacios, PhD, CNM. This webinar explored the historical policies and contemporary issues affecting Indigenous maternal and infant health and how storytelling can invoke a call to action for change.

Carte Blanche: The Erosion of Medical Consent

[This interview](#) features Harriet Washington, award-winning author and medical ethicist who presented on racist medical mythology during the VGM. During this interview, Harriet discusses her new book *Carte Blanche*, which is the alarming tale of the right of Americans to say “no” to risky medical research has been violated. Specifically, medical research has been conducted on trauma victims – who are disproportionately people of color – without their consent or knowledge.

Studying Birth Experiences During COVID-19

[This episode](#) from the American Hospital Association's *Advancing Health* podcast features Karen Scott, MD, MPH, FACOG, who presented on her SACRED Birth Study during the VGM. During the podcast, Dr. Scott explores how we can identify obstetric racism in an effort to achieve maternal health equity. Specifically, she discusses the Patient Reported Experience Measure of Obstetric Racism©, which is designed to capture patient experiences and identify obstetric racism in hospital settings.

Public Health in Indigenous Populations

[This webinar](#) hosted by the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) featured Donald Warne, MD, MPH. Dr. Warne presented on American Indian maternal, child, and family health equity during the VGM. In this webinar, Dr. Warne explores the history of indigenous people and the policies that have impacted them over time. He also discusses the impact of COVID-19 on Native people and special considerations for Native communities during the pandemic.

A Conversation with Dr. Louis Sullivan on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Health Care

During the VGM, former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Louis Sullivan, joined Deborah Frazier of the National Healthy Start Association and Thurma McCann Goldman, the first director of the Division of Healthy Start, in providing a History of Healthy Start. In [this interview](#) with the Macy Foundation, Dr. Sullivan reflects on the efforts over the past several decades to address bias and eliminate discrimination in health care, as well as what progress must still be made.

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.

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://wecandothishhs.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.

New Resources: ASPE Key Programmatic Elements of Father Engagement to Promote Self-Sufficiency (“KEEP Fathers Engaged”) Project

The Office of the Assistance Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) recently released a [publication of several new resources](#) from their *Key Programmatic*

Elements of Father Engagement to Promote Self-Sufficiency (“KEEP Fathers Engaged”) project. Resources include an issue brief and accompanying infographics, case studies, podcasts, and more.

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 August 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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