



TA & Support Center News & Updates

Deadlines:

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

Events:

Mar 29 [The Equity Table: Women's History in MCH](#)

Apr 6 Recruitment & Retention Cohort Meeting #4– *R&R cohort members only*

Apr 7 CAN Cohort Meeting #4 – *CAN cohort members only*

Apr 12 [Fatherhood Talk Tuesday](#)

Apr 19 [2021 Annual Assessment Webinar](#)

Apr 20 Fatherhood Cohort Meeting #4 – *Fatherhood cohort members only*

Apr 21 Evaluation Cohort Meeting #4 – *Evaluation cohort members only*

The Equity Table: Women’s History in MCH

On **Tuesday, March 29 from 3-4:30 p.m. ET**, TASC will be hosting the next segment of **The Equity Table** – 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. Sessions will explore major topics impacting the health and well-being of people of color (e.g., mass incarceration, voting rights).

Join the TASC at The Equity Table: Women’s History in MCH on March 29th to continue the conversation with the Healthy Start community in honor of the month of March as Women’s History Month! **To register, [please click here](#).**

Catalyst for Infant Health Equity Program

We are very pleased to announce that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is now accepting applications for the fiscal year 2022 Catalyst for Infant Health Equity program. The purpose of this new funding opportunity is to support the implementation of existing action plans that apply data-driven policy and innovative systems strategies to reduce infant mortality (IM) disparities in a specific county/jurisdiction. The goals of the Catalyst for Infant Health Equity program are twofold: 1) to continue reducing overall IM rates in the United States, and 2) to decrease and ultimately eliminate disparities in IM across racial/ethnic groups by achieving steeper declines for groups with highest rates. To maximize impact on disparities in infant mortality rates at the national level, counties/jurisdictions with larger numbers of excess infant deaths will be considered priority areas. The Catalyst for Infant Health Equity program is open to applicants from domestic or private entities, community-based organizations, tribes and tribal organizations. HRSA anticipates that Catalyst awards will accelerate the reduction of IM disparities and excess infant deaths by supporting policy and systems changes that improve conditions to promote equity.

The anticipated project start date is September 1, 2022. Letters of Intent to apply are requested by February 18, 2022.

Applications are due April 19, 2022. More information is available in the NOFO: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=334421>

Please circulate this broadly within your networks. For more information, please contact the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services at infanthealthequity@hrsa.gov.

In Case You Missed it...

Understanding Prenatal Alcohol Exposure and Preventing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Webinar #2

The Healthy Start TASC is partnering with the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) to provide a three-part series related to prenatal alcohol exposure. During the second session, Kathy Mitchell of NOFAS provided an overview of session #1, discussed the impact of substance use disorders on individuals and families, and described the importance of providing strength-based messages and resources for families. **Click the links below to view the session recordings:**

- [Session #1](#)
 - [Session #2](#)
-

Building a Successful Fatherhood Program - Part III: Fortifying and Sustaining Fatherhood for the Future

The Healthy Start TA & Support Center partnered with NHTSA to host the **third session in the Building a Successful Fatherhood Program training on February 11th**, facilitated by Kenn Harris and Ken Scarborough. To view the recordings and materials from three sessions, [please click here](#) and scroll down to the ***Building a Successful Fatherhood Program training*** section.

Fatherhood Talk Tuesday

During the winter break, TASC held its annual training, Building a Successful Fatherhood Program – Part III: Fortifying & Sustaining Fatherhood for the Future. To watch the recording or access the resources and worksheets, [please click here](#).

To follow the training, TASC reconvened its monthly Fatherhood Talk Tuesday webinars on March 8. 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. **To view the webinar recording, [please click here](#).**

Networking Café: Community Action Networks (CANs)

On Monday, March 7, the Healthy Start TA & Support Center and Westat hosted a Networking Café focused on Community Action Networks (CANs). As part of the Healthy Start national evaluation for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Westat, the evaluation contractor, is developing a survey to understand the participation of community organizations in Healthy Start Community Action Networks (CANs). This was an opportunity for Healthy Start projects to share information about how their CANs are organized and function in different Healthy Start communities to ensure surveys for the national Healthy Start evaluation is relevant and appropriate. **To view the webinar recording, [please click here](#).**

February: American Heart Month

February was [American Heart Month](#), a time to raise awareness about the leading cause of death in the United States: cardiovascular disease (CVD). Each year, the [American Heart Association's](#) "Go Red for Women" campaign shines a light on the prevalence of heart disease among women. Annually, 1 in 3 women is diagnosed with heart disease, including pregnant and postpartum women. In fact, CVD is now the [leading cause of death](#) among pregnant and postpartum women, accounting for 26.5% of pregnancy-related deaths.

The racial disparities that we see in maternal mortality compound with racial disparities in CVD, making Black women [over three times more likely](#) to die of cardiovascular-related pregnancy complications than White women. [Cardiovascular disorders](#) disproportionately impact Black women, who experience higher rates of pregnancy-related heart attack, stroke, peripartum cardiomyopathy, and pulmonary embolism. [Structural barriers](#) such as limited access to preconception and prenatal care – as well as delays in recognizing CVD symptoms during labor and the postpartum period – contribute to these significant racial disparities.

By working with women, fathers, and families throughout the continuum of care, Healthy Start is well positioned to help them take control of their cardiovascular health and take steps to improve their chances of having a healthy pregnancy. This could include connecting Healthy Start women to a primary care provider for preconception or prenatal care, supporting fathers and other family members in quitting smoking, or educating women on the importance of postpartum care. We hope the following resources support your Healthy Start project in making efforts to reduce and address CVD among your Healthy participants. Please feel free to share with your Healthy Start families.



Maternal Health & Cardiovascular Disease Webinar

[This webinar](#) hosted by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) describes the current landscape of maternal cardiovascular health, as well as programs and policy to address CVD. The speakers included Dr. Rachel Bond, Director of Women's Heart Health within the Association of Black Cardiologists; Dr. Veronica Gillispie-Bell, Medical Director of the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative and Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review; and Erik Sinner, Policy Associate at NCS.

American Heart Month Toolkits

In honor of American Heart Month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is shining a light on hypertension. They have released [three new toolkits](#) to support the implementation of evidence-based hypertension control strategies. The three toolkits are designed for health care professionals, public health professionals, and patients, respectively. The toolkits include journal articles, best practice guides, quizzes, and graphics that can be shared on social media.

Pregnancy and Heart Disease

[This webpage](#) created by Robert Wood

Improving Health Care Response to Cardiovascular Disease in

Johnson Barnabas Health describes risk factors of developing heart disease during pregnancy, as well as symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease. The page includes a video featuring Dr. Julie Master, DO, FACC, who describes how some symptoms of heart disease can be mistaken for typical pregnancy symptoms. Dr. Master highlights the importance of alerting your doctor of any new symptoms during pregnancy.

Preeclampsia Patient Education

Preeclampsia is persistent high blood pressure that develops during pregnancy or the postpartum period. [This webpage](#) created by the Preeclampsia Foundation outlines the importance of patient education around preeclampsia, as well as a timeline for providing prenatal education throughout a women's pregnancy. The page also includes patient education materials, including one-pagers.

The Maternal Wellness Village

In [this webinar](#) from the [Maternal Health Learning and Innovation Center](#), Founder and CEO of Oshun Family Center – Saleemah J. McNeil, CLC, MS, MFT – discusses their partnership with Temple University to address the treatment gap for Black women during pregnancy and postpartum. Among other strategies, they used peripartum lifestyle interventions delivered through mobile technologies to reduce CVD risk factors.

Preconception Care Guide

[This guide](#) created by the [American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology](#) (ACOG) provides information about counseling patients on appropriate health behaviors to optimize pregnancy

Pregnancy and Postpartum Toolkit

[This toolkit](#) was developed by the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative's Cardiovascular Disease in Pregnancy and Postpartum Task Force. The toolkit is a resource for obstetrics, primary care and emergency medicine providers who interact with women during prenatal care or the postpartum period. The toolkit includes an overview of clinical assessment and comprehensive management strategies for cardiovascular disease based on risk factors and presenting symptoms.

The Relationship Between Heart Disease and Motherhood

[The Fourth Trimester Project's Mama Stories section](#) is a place for women to share their experiences with postpartum health topics. [In this story](#), a mother describes her experience learning that pregnancy conditions – such as preeclampsia and gestational diabetes – can increase a women's risk for future heart disease. She discusses the importance of developing a self-care plan, including healthy eating and exercise, to reduce your risk.

Pregnancy and Blood Clots

The CDC often shares real stories from people who have experienced different health conditions. In [this story](#), Debra Turner Bryant shares her experience developing a deep vein thrombosis (i.e., a blood clot in the leg) during pregnancy. Debra recommends that all pregnant women and expecting families educate themselves about the signs and symptoms of blood clots and talk to their doctor about a prevention plan.

Post Birth Warning Signs Handout

The [Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses](#) (AWHONN) created a fact sheet outlining post-birth warning signs that all pregnant women and their families should be

outcomes and prevent maternal mortality. The guide provides a checklist of important preconception health topics to cover, including cardiovascular health and heart disease.

aware of. The handout outlines when to contact a health care provider and when to call 911, and discusses how warning signs can become life-threatening if not addressed. The handout is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Other Resources:

Uplifting Maternal Mental Health Pilot Training

Cicatelli Associates, Inc. (CAI), with support from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is developing training resources for a pilot project on maternal depression, Uplifting Maternal Mental Health. CAI is inviting Healthy Start home visitors to participate. There will be two pilot trainings offered in Spring 2022.

As a result of this training, participants will be able to:

- Practice client-centered communication skills to build rapport and support clients
- Analyze beliefs that arise when talking about maternal depression with clients
- Practice crafting educational messages about maternal depression

Home visitors from southern states and tribal land are especially encouraged to apply. To learn more about participation in the pilot, [please click here](#).

Supervisors interested in participating in a Training of Facilitators later this spring can contact Project Director, Clare Friedrich (cfriedrich@caiglobal.org).

Call for Proposals: 2022 CityMatCH Leadership & MCH Epidemiology Conference

Submit a proposal to the **2022 CityMatCH and MCH Epidemiology Conference**, which will be held in Chicago, IL from September 21-23, 2022! This year's conference will focus on moving *Onwards and Upwards* by being *accountable for the past and building towards the future of MCH!*

If you would like to present your work to peers in the field, CityMatCH is accepting submissions via their online submission system until **April 1, 2022**. To submit your abstract, [please click here](#).

Behavioral Health Resilience ECHO

The ECHO Institute at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC) in conjunction with national partnerships will launch a three-year program to reduce burnout and increase resilience among behavioral health professionals. Using the proven ECHO model, they will launch a series of programs to train and support behavioral health professionals to increase resilience, self-care, and wellness and decrease burnout and the risk for the development of mental health conditions among behavioral health professionals.

This **no cost** ECHO program is open to all trainees, professionals, and supervisors engaged in the provision of mental and/or behavioral health services. This program will train and support, behavioral health professionals to increase their resilience, self-care, and wellness. For more information, [view the program flyer](#).

Lifeline Releases Consumer Advocate Toolkit

The Lifeline program offers a monthly benefit of up to \$9.25 toward phone or internet services for eligible consumers and up to \$34.25 for those living on qualifying Tribal lands.

USAC is committed to providing resources to organizations that help support low-income consumers to increase awareness about the Lifeline program. To encourage and assist such outreach, USAC recently published a [Lifeline Consumer Advocate Toolkit](#) that consumer advocates can use to educate eligible Lifeline populations about the program and how to apply. The toolkit includes resources such as a sample informational article, sample radio or public service announcement script, and sample social media posts. Consumer advocates can use this content as a template or post the information directly as is.

Consumer advocacy groups, social service agencies, and other organizations can print and distribute the toolkit's resources in their communities. Lifeline encourages any necessary translation of these resources in order to share them beyond English-speaking communities.

If you are interested in speaking with the Lifeline team about recommendations for increasing awareness about the Lifeline program, email the team at LifelineProgram@usac.org with the subject: "Connect Me with the Communications Team at Lifeline."

Infant Formula Recall

The FDA is advising consumers not to use recalled Similac, Alimentum, or EleCare powdered infant formulas. On Feb. 17, 2022, [Abbott Nutrition initiated a voluntary recall](#) of certain powdered infant formulas. FDA [issued an advisory](#) to alert consumers to avoid purchasing or using recalled powdered infant formula produced in the Sturgis, MI facility. Recalled products can be identified by the 7 to 9 digit code and expiration date on the bottom of the package (see images below). Products are included in the recall if they have all three items below:

- the first two digits of the code are 22 through 37 and
- the code on the container contains K8, SH, or Z2, and
- the expiration date is 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later

Additional recall information is available on the [FDA website](#). Parents and caregivers can also enter their product lot code on the [company's website](#) or call 1-800-986-8540 to check if it is part of the recall.

Learn to Advance Racial Equity in Public Data Integration

[Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy \(AISP\)](#), an initiative based at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice, has issued a request for applications for a training and technical assistance program to help education, child welfare and other state and local agencies advance racial equity in their data integration efforts.

Funded by the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, AISP's Equity in Practice Learning Community will work with communities to build, test and refine new models for incorporating residents' perspectives into key decisions about the development and

use of data across sectors that serve children and families, with an emphasis on health equity and racial justice.

Representatives of interested communities can download the [request for applications](#), with submissions due by March 25, 2022.

Call to Share Promising Practices: COVID Vaccination among Pregnant People

In September 2021, the CDC 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.

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.

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 distributed the latest quarterly Fatherhood newsletter in December. To access the Fatherhood newsletters, [please click here](#) and scroll down to the “Quarterly Fatherhood Newsletter” section. The Fatherhood newsletters feature TASC events related to fatherhood, as well as external events and resources on the topic. This newsletter is geared towards Fatherhood Coordinators and other Healthy Start staff who work with dads. The newsletter highlights and promotes 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](#).



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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