



2020 Cross-jurisdictional Systems Improvement Partnership Technical Assistance Opportunity

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 6, 2019

ARE YOU READY TO WORK WITH OTHER HEALTH DEPARTMENTS IN YOUR REGION? Public health and systems issues often span jurisdictional boundaries. To improve public health systems and infrastructure, the Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (CSTLTS) with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has partnered with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO), and the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) to support a collaborative technical assistance opportunity as part of its Strong Systems, Stronger Communities (SSSC) initiative.

WHAT IS SSSC? This opportunity builds on ASTHO, NACCHO, and NIHB's previous Accreditation Support Initiatives and continues a commitment to the strengthening of public health systems by offering support and technical assistance directly to regions. More information on SSSC can be found on the [CDC](#), [ASTHO](#), [NACCHO](#), and [NIHB](#) websites.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS? This opportunity aims to improve performance improvement practice and increase innovation in response to systems challenges, and to support progress toward meeting national public health standards among local, tribal, and state health departments. Challenges may include but are not limited to rural coordination, infrastructure (e.g. laboratories, shared services) and capacity development, enforcement of public health laws, and alignment of assessments and plans. Specifically, this project is designed to strengthen cross-jurisdictional partnerships among local, tribal, and state health entities to develop and implement a shared action plan toward public health systems improvement. This will be supported by joint tailored technical assistance provided by ASTHO-NACCHO-NIHB.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? This opportunity - in contrast to others offered by ASTHO, NACCHO, or NIHB - requires a shared commitment from at least one Tribal, one local, and one state health department (i.e., Partnership) to collaborate on a joint public health systems improvement project. This Partnership can include a combination of health entities of:

- Federally recognized Tribal governments, Tribal organizations, or inter-Tribal consortiums (as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended),
- City, county and other regional health departments, and
- State health departments (i.e., those within the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia).

In addition to these required entities, the Partnership may engage other local, regional, or state partners. For example, multiple Tribal or local health departments within a State, and/or partner organizations for the Tribal, local, or state health entities might choose to join together with the selected cohort to implement a shared action plan toward public health systems improvement.

WHAT TYPE OF PROJECTS ARE SUPPORTED? Recognizing that relationship building is critical to addressing systems improvement projects that span jurisdictional boundaries, ASTHO, NACCHO, and NIHB recommend that regions prioritize a project focused on activities or responsibilities represented through the [10 Essential Public Health Services](#) or [12 Domains of PHAB Public Health Accreditation](#). (Note that intent to apply for PHAB re/accreditation among the entities is not a requirement for this

opportunity). For example, if a Tribal health entity, two neighboring county health departments, and a state want to further their collaborative efforts in sharing surveillance data, they might propose a project focused on assessing health status and shared health issues across their communities as aligned with PHAB Domain 1 or Domain 2. Alternatively, if there was regional support for addressing enforcement of public health laws, the applicants would propose a project that focused on PHAB Domain 6.

WHAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) FOR SSSC IS PROVIDED? For this novel, collaborative opportunity, ASTHO, NACCHO, and NIHB will provide performance improvement capacity-building technical assistance to the Partnership to attain project goals. This TA includes:

- Support for the Partnership to develop a joint action plan to accomplish public health systems improvement activities to advance a regionally identified project.
- Virtual training tailored to cohort needs, gaps, or opportunities identified within the area of focus (see TA topic examples below).
- Travel to and participation in a 1-2-day, in-person workshop with regional and national partners, including ASTHO, NACCHO, and NIHB.
- Technical assistance from national subject matter experts on performance improvement, including partnership development, quality improvement, and/or PHAB accreditation in the region's identified area of focus. Potential TA topic areas for consideration include:*
 - Partnership/team building
 - Meeting/group process facilitation
 - Prioritization strategies and techniques
 - Identifying performance, process, and outcomes metrics, including to address social determinants of health and improve health equity
 - Using Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) to test change
 - Employing financial and business process, financial alignment, and grants management
 - Developing and aligning plans across jurisdictions
 - Understanding the fundamentals of public health quality improvement to build a culture of QI in your organization or partnership (QI 101 training)
 - Using data visualization
 - Developing cultural competency
 - Building health literacy capacity
 - Conducting focus groups and key informant interviews
 - Understanding government structures in cross jurisdictional partnerships
 - Addressing complex challenges using Adaptive Leadership
 - Conducting collaborative community health assessment and planning
 - Communicating with stakeholders (e.g., funders, governing bodies, community members)
 - Sharing services (clinical and non-clinical) with partners

*Note: This list represents *examples* of the types of TA that can be provided. Only those topics relevant to the Partnership's needs and that are feasible to be offered during using the LOI to indicate specific areas where technical assistance is most needed and why.

WHAT IS THE PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE? This opportunity is supported with in-kind technical assistance and subject matter expertise from ASTHO, NACCHO, NIHB, and other national partners as appropriate, throughout the period of performance of January to July 2020. Travel costs for the 1-to-2

day in-person workshop (location and dates are to be determined) will be covered by ASTHO, NACCHO, and NIHB. This opportunity does not include direct funding.

WHAT ARE REQUIREMENTS AS A SELECTED PARTNERSHIP? If selected for this opportunity, representatives from each partnering entity who comprise the selected regional partnership will:

- a. Sign a joint letter of engagement within 10 business days of receiving it;
- b. Participate in technical assistance calls;
- c. Participate in virtual trainings;
- d. Participate in a 1-2-day in-person workshop;
- e. Submit a draft joint action plan during the project period; and
- f. Submit a final progress report and revised joint action plan at the end of the project period.

Project Timeline (Subject to Change)

Target Date(s)	Event	Details
January 13, 2020	Kick-Off Webinar (#1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview of training and TA outline ● Introductions ● Identifying additional team members ● Drafting a team charter
February 13, 2020	Webinar #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic TBD based upon partnership needs
March 2020 (dates TBD)	Individual (i.e., each agency) TA calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Check on progress, provide tailored TA, and inform May in-person workshop
April 7, 2020	Webinar #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic TBD based upon partnership needs
May 5 & 6, 2020	In-person workshop (location TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training content TBD based upon partnership needs; to include project action plan development
June 1, 2020	Initial draft action plan due from participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Template to be provided
June 1 – July 13, 2020	Individual (i.e., each agency) project assessment calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close out check in to assess the project’s process and outcomes
June 12, 2020	Feedback on action plan provided by ASTHO/NACCHO/NIHB	
June 30, 2020	Final action plan and progress report due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Templates to be provided
July 13, 2020	Closing call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teams report back and share highlights, lessons learned, and planned initial implementation steps
July 30, 2020	ASTHO/NACCHO/NIHB post project results, including action plan and assessment findings, as well as promotional pieces (blogs, etc.)	

HOW DO WE APPLY? By December 6, 2019, submit a joint Letter of Interest (LOI) by submitting an online application found here: (https://survey.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5BkxM6kQ3hQHkPX). This includes the following:

1. Names of the participating Tribal, local, and state entities;
2. The lead/point of contact for each organization named in the application;
3. A brief description of prior and/or current collaborations among the Tribal, local, and/or state entities and ability to partner on this project;
4. The Essential Public Health Service or PHAB domain that the partners are looking to address and why;
5. A description of what you hope to achieve through this effort and how the project results will inform/benefit ongoing efforts;
6. A description of specific areas where technical assistance is most needed and why (see example list above);
7. A description of the Partnership's capacity to engage in project activities and implement the group's action plan after the period of performance; and
8. A statement affirming the partners' commitment to engage in SSSC TA activities and provide required deliverables.

WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS? One (1) joint regional partnership, comprised of at least one official Tribal entity, one local health department, and one state health department, will be selected by ASTHO, NACCHO, and NIHB, in consultation with CDC, based upon the criteria outlined above (1-8). The selected regional partnership will be notified by mid-December 2019 with activities anticipated to start in January 2020.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

- For State Health Departments, please contact Heidi Westermann at hwestermann@astho.org, 571-318-5417
- For Local Health Departments, please contact Peter Holtgrave at pholtgrave@naccho.org.
- For Tribal entities, please contact Sarah Price at sprice@nihb.org, 202-507-4078