

Early Brain Development Technical Assistance Program

Non-Funded State/Territorial Health Agency Participation

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Released: February 6th

Deadline: March 15th

Bidders' Conference Call

ASTHO will host a bidders' conference call on Wednesday, February 20th from 4:30 PM-5:00 PM EST to interested applicants to offer guidance and address specific questions about the RFA. Conference Line: (866)-740-1260 Passcode: 3185498

ASTHOStat Technical Assistance Opportunity

Overview

Early brain development is a major factor in not only an individual's long-term health, but also in his or her ability to learn, achieve, and succeed. Ensuring healthy early brain development can directly help improve population health outcomes and can support early literacy and enhance school readiness. Many of the tools and techniques that support healthy brain development for physical and mental health also form the foundation for successful lifelong learning. State and territorial health agencies (S/THAs) have an essential role to play in early brain development.

ASTHO will provide state health agencies and their staff with targeted technical assistance (TA) to implement early brain development programs and policies. ASTHO will help S/THAs and staff consider and translate early brain development science into evidence-based policies and practices that promote and protect brain health and optimal development. ASTHO will also promote early brain development by fostering connections between public health departments and other key stakeholders.

This opportunity is intended to provide states and territories with targeted TA to help advance discrete policy and program goals. ASTHO will provide quick, responsive assistance that does not require a large or ongoing commitment on the part of participating states and territories. While states and territories should apply with an initial goal that can be accomplished in 3-4 months, long term outcomes can, and should, extend past your proposal's project period. Through this process, ASTHO will help participating states and territories to refine the scope of the TA assistance and provide expert support on implementation. ASTHO encourages the submission of innovative proposals that utilize new strategies to improve early brain development and health among both children and families. Projects can include, but are not limited to, coordinating and integrating early childhood services, collaborative partnerships to create a system of care for children, and innovative efforts to create a comprehensive early childhood system to better serve children and families. ASTHO will provide the following types of TA to assist participating states and territories:

- Develop resources and materials, including background information, trend analysis and research
- Facilitate peer-to-peer information exchange between states
- Identify and provide a subject matter expert for consultation
- Assist in developing a workplan or strategic planning support

Through this program, ASTHO hopes to advance the use of evidence-based approaches to supporting early brain development in public health programs. No monetary assistance is available to awardees for participation in the Early Brain Development Technical Assistance Program (EBD-TAP).

Background

As part of ASTHO's early brain development project, ASTHO developed the following resources on state and territorial approaches to improving early brain development (resources are housed on ASTHO's webpage at [this link](#)):

- [Technical Assistance \(TA\) Framework](#): This searchable database includes early brain development science, policy, and implementation resources to inform the work of states, territories, and other partners.
- [Early Brain Development Strategic Guide](#): Selected promising policy and program approaches to early brain development at the state/territorial level, including implementation strategies and recommendations.
- [Early Brain Development Self-Assessment Tool](#): A tool for state/territorial health departments and others to assess the current work taking place in their jurisdictions on early brain development and to help identify gaps and opportunities for future initiatives.
- [Provider and Public Health Professional Training Modules](#): ASTHO and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) update a set of provider training modules on early brain development.

Eligibility

All S/THAs and staff are eligible to participate in the Early Brain Development Technical Assistance Program (EBD-TAP). Technical assistance through this opportunity will be available from March 22, 2019 until May 15, 2019. ASTHO will select up to 3 states/territories to participate in the EBD-TAP.

Proposal Components and Application Process

Statement of interest

State and territorial health agencies are invited to complete this [form](#) to apply to the EBD-TAP.

Timeline

This proposal will be released on February 6, 2019. The project period will run from March 22, 2019 until May 15, 2019. As noted above, interested states and territories should indicate their preferred timing for TA within this period. ASTHO must receive full applications by March 15, 2019.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following components:

- Contact Information (10 points)**: Include the names of the lead programmatic contacts (name, address, e-mail, telephone number).
- Proposed Project (50 points)**: Provide a brief outline of the approach and strategy to build state capacity to support healthy early brain development. Describe how the proposed project enhances or improves the state's early brain development work.
- Prior Experience (30 points)**: Demonstrate the state health agency's commitment and interest in early brain development. Describe experience and quality of performance on early brain development work. For example, participation in the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact Grant Program.
- Organization Capacity (10 points)**: Include information about the project team and address ability and capacity to perform the tasks required within the specified timeframe. Describe staff qualifications and provide a CV for key personnel/staff lead.

Program Contact

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