

ASTHO Technical Package: State Support for COVID-19 Health Equity: TA for OT21-2103 Recipients

Background

ASTHO, in collaboration with CDC and other national organizations, will provide technical assistance to state public health departments receiving funding through OT21-2103, *National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities*.

ASTHO will work with grantees to improve public health systems and infrastructure to address COVID-19 related disparities associated with socially disadvantaged populations, including, but not limited to racial/ethnic minorities and rural communities.

ASTHO will deliver technical assistance support to OT21-2103 grant recipients in building, and expanding organization infrastructure support for the four overarching CDC grant strategies:

- Expand existing and/or develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk
- Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and socially disadvantaged.
- Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities
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Technical Package Process

ASTHO convened 14 program staff from across the organization as a planning group with the purpose of developing and recommending a ‘technical package’ of prioritized strategies and approaches that ASTHO will focus on with all states to achieve national health equity outcomes. The planning group activities included

- a review of ASTHO’s current health equity portfolio,
- a compilation and review of the existing evidence base for health equity interventions,
- a review of 30 state workplans.
- develop priorities and program outcomes that relate to existing ASTHO capacity and technical expertise

ASTHO technical package priorities:

Priority/Objective 1: Improved race and ethnicity fields/data in state IIS, ELR and ECR systems

- Process measure 1: By July 2022, ASTHO will support S/THAs in their reporting of complete race and ethnicity data in weekly immunization reports to CDC by providing

related technical assistance to at least 10 OT21-2103 grantees. (baseline: 0, source: ASTHO TA tracking)

- Outcome measure 1: By July 2022, inclusion of complete race and ethnicity data in weekly immunization reports from S/THAs to CDC will improve to 80% (baseline 50%, currently at 70%) (source CDC)

Priority/Objective 2: Strengthen pandemic response capacity through the development of CHW positions, job descriptions, salary ranges, and core competencies in state HR system, and to develop and structure contractual services to engage CHWs through community-based organizations.

Priority/Objective 3: Enhance S/THAs population health impact through the use of CHWs to provide access to testing, contact tracing services and engage and educate communities about vaccination.

- Process measure 1: By July 2022, ASTHO will support S/THAs in the development of CHW positions by providing specialized technical assistance to at least 10 OT21-2103 grantees. (baseline: 0, source: ASTHO TA tracking)
- Outcome measure 1: By July 2022 at least 50% of states will have CHWs engaged in access to testing, contact tracing services and education about COVID vaccination (baseline: unknown, source: National Association of Community Health Workers)
- Outcome measure 2: By July 2022 at least 40% of states will have CHW positions, levels, job descriptions and salary ranges including in their state HR system (baseline: unknown. source poll of ASTHO HR Directors Peer Group)

Priority/Objective 4: Expand STHAs scope of work to include a stronger focus on health equity (i.e., chronic disease risk factors, behavioral health)

- Process measure: By July 2022, ASTHO will support S/THAs in conceptualizing and writing work plans that include a clear focus on health equity by providing specialized technical assistance to at least 5 OT21-2103 grantees.
- Outcome measure: By July 2022, an additional 4 states will include activities focused on addressing health equity issues in behavioral health or COVID related chronic diseases in their OT21-2103 work plan. (baseline: unknown, source CDC)

Priority/Objective 5: Expand sick leave and paid family leave to more workers through state policy interventions

- Process measure: By July 2022, ASTHO will support S/THAs expansion of sick leave and paid family leave policies by providing specialized technical assistance to at least X OT21-2103 grantee (baseline: unknow, source: ASTHO TA tracking)
- Outcome measure: By July 2022, at least 3 states will enact sick leave and paid family leave policies (baseline: unknown, source ASTHO policy team)