Project Summary

**Background:** The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is pleased to announce a capacity building and technical assistance (CBTA) opportunity for Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) cooperative agreement leadership. This CBTA opportunity, the *OD2A Mentorship Program: Health Equity Track*, will be open to Principal Investigators (PIs), Program Managers (PMs), Epidemiologists, and other OD2A staff to develop capacity around incorporating health equity into OD2A efforts and take part in a mentor-mentee exchange with OD2A staff from other jurisdictions. The *OD2A Mentorship Program: Health Equity Track* will focus on building content knowledge and capacity around incorporating health equity into the OD2A strategies to reduce overdose morbidity and mortality in all populations.

This program will allow participants to intentionally focus on capacity-building at personal and organizational levels, with supportive health equity training, coaching, and peer interaction with OD2A colleagues. The program allows OD2A staff to intentionally invest in their professional capacity related to advancing health equity through public health efforts.

ASTHO will support up to six OD2A leaders from different jurisdictions to participate in this program. Human Impact Partners (HIP) coaches will provide group training sessions and individualized technical assistance around health equity to participants. Additionally, for the mentorship component, ASTHO will match OD2A staff with a higher level of experience implementing health equity considerations into public health programs with OD2A staff with less experience in this area. Mentors and mentees will be encouraged to communicate monthly with guidance from ASTHO.

**Timeline:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Feb 2022</th>
<th>Mar 2022</th>
<th>Apr 2022</th>
<th>May 2022</th>
<th>June 2022</th>
<th>July 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Deadline</td>
<td>Program Kickoff Call</td>
<td>HIP Training #1</td>
<td>HIP Training #2</td>
<td>HIP Training #3</td>
<td>Closeout Call and Eval</td>
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**Eligibility:** OD2A principal investigators, program managers, epidemiologists and other OD2A project staff.
Project Elements and Expectations

Purpose

The OD2A cooperative agreement leadership staff support both overdose prevention and surveillance activities within their jurisdictions. The responsibilities involved in leading the OD2A cooperative agreement include vast content knowledge, an understanding of organizational structure and financial stewardship, adaptable leadership skills, partnership building, and effective cross-sectoral engagement. These skills are all vital to developing a sustainable and effective approach to combatting the overdose crisis through the OD2A strategies. ASTHO is providing a mentorship program for OD2A cooperative agreement leadership to support staff in these responsibilities and skills. This program will convene new and experienced OD2A cooperative agreement leaders to participate in Health Equity training from the Human Impact Partners (HIP) and an opportunity to celebrate successes, identify challenges, and share ideas through peer exchange and a structured mentor-mentee relationship. This program will also include guidance materials provided by ASTHO and targeted capacity building technical assistance from Human Impact Partners.

Intended Outcomes

- Increase participants’ capacity to incorporate health equity considerations into the OD2A strategies through peer-to-peer interaction and mentor-mentee exchanges.
- Strengthen professional networks to include fellow OD2A recipient jurisdiction staff working to incorporate health equity into their overdose prevention and surveillance strategies.
- Enhance considerations for health equity into current and future OD2A programs through professional development for OD2A staff.

Project Activities, Participant Expectations, and Participant Benefits

Participants are expected to commit to the following activities within the project period:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual Kick-Off Call</td>
<td>Approximately 1 hour</td>
<td>• Understand project purpose, expectations, and goals.</td>
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<td>• Identify skills to be modeled throughout the project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Virtual Health Equity Trainings with HIP</td>
<td>Approximately 2 hours each</td>
<td>Learning Objectives may include:</td>
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<td>• Introduction to health equity with a racial justice and power-building lens to establish shared language and a baseline analysis.</td>
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- Deepening relationships needed to advance health equity.
- Operationalizing health equity by fostering community partnerships with community power-building organizations.
- Identifying 2-3 strategic opportunities to center equity in OD2A work.

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<tr>
<th>Mentor-Mentee Exchanges</th>
<th>Up to 3 communications</th>
<th>• Provide an opportunity for mutual learning and exchange, recognizing the unique perspectives that both more and less experienced participants have to offer.</th>
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</table>
| Individualized Technical Assistance | Up to 4 hours | TA activities with HIP coaches may include:
  • Reviewing program planning documentation.
  • Recommendations on ways to advance equity.
  • Participating in program planning or project meetings, to provide input on application of a racial equity impact analysis tool. |
| Close Out Call (Final Evaluation) | Approximately 1 hour | • Evaluate the process and impact of CBTA provided by ASTHO and HIP.
  • Record thoughts and insights from the experience in an exit interview style close out call. |

Participants can anticipate the following expectations and benefits as part of the mentor-mentee relationship within the project period:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expectations</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mentors</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mentees</strong></td>
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</table>
| • Develop objectives and goals for mentor-mentee communications.  
• Participate in up to three mentor-mentee communications (e.g., email, phone call) as mentor. | • Participation in training and technical assistance with subject matter expert coaches from HIP.  
• Expert guidance around structuring mentor-mentee communications and relationship.  
• Increasing mentorship capacity related to health equity through ASTHO and HIP guidance.  
• Peer exchange with mentee and other mentors. |
| • Develop objectives and goals for mentor-mentee communications.  
• Participate in up to three mentor-mentee communications (e.g., email, phone call). | • Participation in training and technical assistance with subject matter expert coaches from HIP.  
• Gaining valuable insight from mentors.  
• Expert guidance around mentor-mentee communications and relationship. |
Application Information

Application Package

Participation in this opportunity is open to OD2A cooperative agreement staff, such as principal investigators (PIs), epidemiologists, and program managers (PMs) interested in improving their capacity and learning more about how to involve health equity in OD2A efforts and programming. The application package consists of a statement of interest and a statement of support from a direct supervisor.

Application Type and Submission Process

Use this Qualtrics form to complete the application by 11:59 p.m. ET on Feb. 28. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered. If you are having issues accessing the online application, please contact Alyssa Merski (amerski@astho.org) for other submission options. Please note that ASTHO will prioritize selections based on the applicant’s needs.

Timeline

Application submission deadline: Feb. 28, 2022

Project period: March 2022 – July 2022

Evaluations due: Aug. 2022

Contact Information

If you have any questions about the application or the project, please contact Alyssa Merski, Senior Analyst, Social and Behavioral Health: amerski@astho.org

Disclaimer Notice

This RFA is not binding on ASTHO, nor does it constitute a contractual offer. Without limiting the foregoing, ASTHO reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all proposals; to modify, supplement, or cancel the RFA; to waive any deviation from the RFA; to negotiate regarding any proposal; and to negotiate final terms and conditions that may differ from those stated in the RFA. Under no circumstances shall ASTHO be liable for any costs incurred by any person in connection with the preparation and submission of a response to this RFA.