

**Application for TA on Improving Equity in Family Outcomes**

**Applications due March 17, 2023**

**States/Entities notified by April 7, 2023**

**Kickoff call for states/entities:**

**Monday, July 17 at 1-2pm ET**

**Purpose of this Request for Applications**

The ECTA Center is inviting Part C Coordinators to apply to participate in an intensive technical assistance (TA) opportunity focused on advancing equity in family outcomes. The purpose of this intensive TA is to support state/entity teams in their efforts to improve the quality of family data and to use these data to improve implementation of recommended practices with families and family engagement at multiple levels. The initiative is designed to engage with states/entities that wish to be intentional in their efforts to improve family outcomes through collaborative and sustainable systemic change focused on advancing equity.

Advancing equity in early intervention requires an understanding of the social context, including implicit and explicit biases, in which programs exist. These biases include race, class, culture, gender, sexual orientation, ability and disability, language, national origin, indigenous heritage, religion, and other identities. Addressing inequities requires attention to interpersonal relationships among families, children, and professionals at the core of early intervention practices, as well as systemic factors including uneven distribution of privilege and power inherent in public systems nationally ([NAEYC position statement on Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education](https://www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/equity)).

**Project Description**

States/entities will commit to a 24-month initiative that will include individualized and cross-state/entity TA provided by ECTA and TA partners at the DaSy Center. With support from TA providers, each state/entity team in the cohort will develop an individualized plan, implement and evaluate state/entity activities, contribute to peer-to peer learning, and participate in the overall cohort evaluation activities. Each state/entity plan will have intended outcomes that focus on specific areas of need in their state/entity related to: 1) increasing representativeness and quality of family data (family survey and/or other data from families); and 2) using their data to improve implementation of recommended practices with families and family engagement at multiple levels. States/entities should be prepared to use de-identified family data as well as other program data and should have some capacity to disaggregate data by demographic characteristics to review equity issues and focus improvement activities.

States/entities will identify and address a specific area of need in their state/entity. The state/entity-identified focus area could address family subgroup(s), geographic region(s) that are under-resourced, data collection or data sharing strategies, equity in family leadership or program decision-making opportunities, improved family engagement practices within programs or family subgroups, advancing policies or professional development around equity, etc. Please identify and propose a focus area based on your state’s/entity’s unique needs and challenges.

**Project Management**

Each state/entity must form a **Leadership Team** to participate in the initiative and lead the development and implementation of the individualized plan. Team members must include the Part C Coordinator and at least one parent representative. It is recommended that states/entities include members that have a systems understanding of family needs. We encourage states/entities to partner with PTI/CPRC to identify a parent representative(s). It is strongly suggested that additional team members include state/entity TA providers, data managers, ICC/LICC leaders and/or members, local program leaders, providers, etc. Additionally, members or representatives of those communities your team wishes to work with should be considered for your Leadership Team membership as well.

Team members are expected to participate in individual and cross-state/entity TA calls to facilitate the achievement of identified state/entity goals. TA activities will include:

* Monthly individual TA calls with state/entity teams and TA providers
* Bimonthly all-state/entity calls: 4th Mondays at 1-2pm ET
	+ Monday, July 17, 2023, 1-2pm ET – Kickoff Call
	+ Wednesday, September 27, 2023 – virtual call for State/Entity Team members not attending in-person
	+ Monday, November 27, 2023, 1-2pm ET
	+ Monday, January 22, 2024, 1-2pm ET
	+ Monday, March 25, 2024, 1-2pm ET
	+ Monday, May 27, 2024, 1-2pm ET
	+ Monday, July 22, 2024, 1-2pm ET
	+ Monday, September 23, 2024, 1-2pm ET
* Monday, January 27, 2025, 1-2pm ET
* Two all-state/entity in-person meetings (travel covered for 3 team members)
	+ Wednesday, September 27, 2023
	+ TBD
* One or more on-site state/entity visits by TA providers, as requested
* Regular availability of TA providers for ongoing support throughout the cohort duration

**Eligibility Requirements**

All states and entities that receive Part C funding are eligible to apply. Applicants must demonstrate:

* An intentional desire to advance equitable outcomes for families
* A program commitment to participate through the allocation of time and resources
* A focus area based on identified need and/or existing data
* A leadership team with relevant composition and commitment to the project goals

**Application Requirements**

* Each state/entity must complete the application questions in full and submit electronically to sonia.sabater@unc.edu no later than **March 17, 2023.**
* The application must be submitted by the Part C Coordinator with a letter of support and commitment from their agency leadership and parent representative.

**Application Questions**

1. What is the overall issue that your state/entity would like to prioritize for program improvement in the area of equity and family outcomes?
2. What are the intended outcomes that your state/entity would like to focus on through participation in this intensive TA? Please describe at least one intended outcome related to equity around family experiences and outcomes and one intended outcome related to family engagement practices.
3. What data have you examined that suggests the need for targeted improvement in this area?
4. How would you describe your current capacity to analyze family data by demographic characteristics to review equity issues? Are you able to analyze your family data by variables such as race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, etc.? If yes, which demographics are you currently using to disaggregate your data? If not, explain how you might plan to build your capacity in this area.
5. How do you think participating in this intensive TA effort will benefit your state/entity?
6. What state/entity and/or local challenges do you believe could impact your success with this initiative? How do you plan to overcome them? Where will you require external assistance?
7. How does this intensive TA fit with other state/entity initiatives (e.g., SSIP, APR, other initiatives)?
8. Please list proposed leadership team members and their role(s). Please remember the Part C Coordinator and family representative are required.