



FAQ: Healthy Start Screening Tools

- 1. Who developed the Healthy Start Screening Tools?** Screening tools were developed over the course of 16 months (March 2015-July 2016) by the Healthy Start Collaborative Improvement Innovation Network (HS CoIIN). Drafts of the screening tools were vetted by all Healthy Start programs from January through February 2016, and comments were incorporated from February through May 2016. The revised tools were pilot tested by 12 programs from July 11-15, 2016, and further revised. Final versions were approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in November 2016, and are ready for implementation. For additional information on the HS CoIIN you may visit <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/collaborative-improvement-innovation-networks-coiins#infant>
- 2. What sources informed the development of the screening tools?** The questions incorporated into the Healthy Start Screening Tools are aligned with evidence-based screening instruments as well as national data sets (e.g., BRFSS, PRAMS). A list of evidence-based sources is available from the EPIC Center. Please see “Evidence Resources for Screening Tools” for the documentation of sources used to inform the development of the screening tools.
- 3. What is the purpose of the Screening Tools?** The screening tools ensure that all Healthy Start participants receive a comprehensive screening of their risks and needs. If indicated, a more comprehensive assessment for follow-up health and social service referral needs will be conducted.
- 4. How many screening tools are there?** There are six screening tools: 1) Demographic, 2) Pregnancy History, 3) Preconception, 4) Prenatal, 5) Post-Partum, and 6) Parenting/Interconception.
- 5. How do I know which screening tools to complete with a participant?** Beginning in January, all participants should complete the Demographic and Pregnancy History screening tools. Additional screening tools to be completed will depend upon the participant’s current circumstance. A flowchart has been developed to guide the decision process and is available from the EPIC Center. [HS Flowchart ScreeningTools 11.16.16.pdf](#)
- 6. When do we need to implement the screening tools?** Implementation of the tools began on January 1, 2017.
- 7. Are Healthy Start grantees required to use the screening tools?** Grantees are not required to use the screening tools. However, grantees are required to report all data elements included in the screening tools as part of the Healthy Start National Evaluation. Furthermore, the screening tools were designed to capture the data required for benchmark reporting. If you use your own forms to capture the required data, you are expected to accurately map collected data to report to DS Federal (see FAQ on Data System).



- 8. Previously it was optional for clients to answer all of the questions in the screening tool, is that still the case? We want to encourage filling out the forms completely, but can we still count people as clients if they do not answer all the questions?** Healthy Start participants may decline to answer questions on the screening tools and still be considered a participant for purposes of your total count. Please encourage your program participants to provide this information fully to ensure they receive all the services they need. This will also lead to improved health and program outcomes.
- 9. Will the screening tools be made available in other languages?** The screening tools have not been translated at this time. The screening tools are intended to be completed by staff with participants and not for participants to self-administer. Staff will receive training on how to conduct the screenings with participants. Consideration will be given to translating the screening tools in the future.
- 10. How do I implement the screening tools?** Healthy Start programs are responsible for implementing the screening tools either by integrating screening tool questions in your existing screening procedures or customizing your data collection procedures. The screening tools are not designed for self-administration by participants, they are intended to be administered by staff with the participant. The screening tools incorporate instructions directed to staff and the reading level is not designed for low literacy participants.

Several efforts are underway to support programs in implementing the screening tools including:

- a. ETO and ChallengerSoft Vendor Negotiations: CoIIN members are leading negotiations with ETO and ChallengerSoft to modify their interface to include the screening tools. If you are currently using or interested in using one of these products, you can speak to Debby Allen (dallen@bphc.org) from Boston Healthy Start for ETO and Maria Reyes (mreyes@pciglobal.org) from California Border Healthy Start for Challenger Soft.
- b. EPIC Online Tool: EPIC has developed an online data collection and reporting tool, known as Survey Gizmo. This tool replicates the screening tools and captures all required data fields. It is a simple tool to enable Healthy Start programs (who do not have access to a database solution) to implement electronic data collection and required XML reporting to DS Federal. EPIC will provide TA and training on the tool for interested programs. For more information, please contact the EPIC Helpline at 1-844-225-3713 or EPIC email at healthystartepic@jsi.com

- 11. What training and resources for the screening tools will be available?** The HS EPIC Center will be providing a combination of live webinars, recorded modules, and phone support



to Healthy Start grantees who will be implementing the screening tools. This training and technical assistance will include detail review of each of the screening tools and their associated benchmarks, assistance with implementation of the web-based option of the screening tools developed by JSI, clarification on benchmark definitions and calculations, and operationalizing quality improvement systems.

12. Who should I contact with screening tool questions? You may contact CoIIN members or the EPIC Center with questions.

- CoIIN Member Contact: Debby Allen (dallen@bphc.org) from Boston Healthy Start and Maria Reyes (mreyes@pciglobal.org) from California Border Healthy Start.
- EPIC Center Contact: EPIC Helpline at 1-844-225-3713 or EPIC email at healthystartepic@jsi.com