

Conversation with the Division: FAQs



Healthy Start Webinar: Conversations with the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services

On April 25, 2019, HRSA's Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services facilitated a webinar to welcome and orient Healthy Start awardees to the FY 2019-2024 grant cycle.

This FAQ captures recurring questions submitted during the webinar. The recording, transcript, and slides for the webinar can be found on the [EPIC Center website](#).

Programmatic Questions

Q: Are there still five approaches?

A: The previous five approaches undergirding the Healthy Start program have been streamlined to four, with the same fundamental aims in mind. The four approaches are: 1) Improving women's health, 2) Improving family health and wellness, 3) Promoting systems change, and 4) Assuring impact and effectiveness. More information about the [approaches](#) is available on the Healthy Start EPIC Center website.

Q: For the number of clients served, does the second 300 represent infants, children, preconception women, and interconception women all combined, or is it 300 infants and children?

A: Healthy Start program sites are required to serve at least 700 participants annually, including:

- 300 pregnant women
- 300 infants and children up to 18 months, preconception women, and interconception women combined
- 100 fathers or male partners affiliated with Healthy Start women, infants, and children

Q: Are we able to serve children out of the NICU until they are a "corrected" 18 months, who may actually be older than 18 months?

A: Yes you can continue to serve infants beyond their natural 18 months, if you have program capacity; however, you will need report based their true birth date not the corrected NICU date. .

Q: Will the programmatic requirement for the number of clients served during 2019 be prorated for nine months, or will it reflect the entirety of 2019?

A: Yes, we will prorate the nine-month project period of April 1, 2019-December 31, 2019.

For this period, you will be required to serve a total of 525 participants (225 pregnant women, 225 infants/children and 75 males).

Q: Is there a time frame/estimate for when the revised mandatory screening tools will be available?

A: The revised mandatory screening tools are still undergoing internal review and clearance. An estimated timeframe for completion will be provided as soon as possible. In the interim, please visit the Healthy Start EPIC Center website for [more information about the screening tools](#).

Conversation with the Division: FAQs



Q: May we have the link for all Healthy Start Project Managers?

A: You can update your contact information for the map of Healthy Start grant recipients [on this page](#). The map is located on the EPIC Center website, on the [Find a Grantee page](#).

Grants Management Questions

Q: Will grantees be able to apply for extra funds next year?

A: No.

Q: How should Healthy Start programs manage their clinical funds? Should they be tracked separately from the larger grant?

A: While funds will not be tracked separately, the activities supported by the additional Maternal Materiality will be reported to HRSA. These activities could include:

- 1) Type of clinician/provider hired and percentage of FTE
- 2) Number of participants served
- 3) Description of services served
- 4) Number of maternal mortalities and number of severe maternal morbidities

Q: When will the Project Period End Report be due?

A: The due date will be listed in the EHB.

Q: What is the DGIS report entitled "New Competing Performance Report-Status Overview"?

A: In this report, Healthy Start grant recipients are required to enter budget projections, demographic data, and objectives for the performance measures for the five-year project period (April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2024).

Q: We were unable to access Tiers 2-4 of the performance measures report. Is this intentional?

A: If you believe there is a problem with the EHB, you can contact the HRSA Call Center (1-877-464-4772).

Q: Should continuing projects' Performance Reports contain data only from April 1, 2019 or from Jan 1, 2019?

A: For all projects (continuing and new starts), the Year 1 Performance Report should include only data from the current project period; and thus, should include data April 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.

Q: The reports are always due before the Calendar year ends. Should we adjust goals (objectives) on performance measures (PM) realizing that we are expected to meet them before the calendar year end?

Conversation with the Division: FAQs



A: No, the Performance Reports are due after the end of the budget period, and you would report on the past year's performance.

Q: Is the Non-Competing Progress Report due annually, for each project year?

A: Yes. Each budget year you will have to complete a Non-Competing Progress Report

Q: From where can we obtain the slides from the PMS new grantee training?

A: Please go to <https://pms.psc.gov/> for any questions related to PMS.

Data and Evaluation

Q: Our state did not participate in the National Evaluation Plan (NEP) in the previous project period (our VRO did not execute the DUA with HRSA). HRSA has stated they expect all sites to participate in the NEP this cycle. My program would like to revise our client consent form to prevent any consent issues going forward; do we have any information about the NEP for this grant cycle?

A: At this time, internal discussions are underway regarding a NEP for the FY 2019-2024 cycle. In the interim, HRSA expects grant recipients to meet all current data collection and reporting requirements. Please reach out to your project officer if you have additional questions or concerns.

Q: Please provide clarification regarding how to calculate benchmarks when there is either missing data, or a response of "I don't know" or "declined to answer."

A: Programs should count responses of "I don't know" and "declined to answer" in the denominator. Please reach out to your project officer if you have additional questions or concerns.

Technical Assistance Questions

Q: Will the Healthy Start EPIC Center provide technical assistance to new Healthy Start grant recipients?

A: Yes. MCHB/DHSPS remains committed to ensuring grantees received the support and TA needed to implement the healthy start program. In the previous cycle, the TA Center support was provided by John Snow International (JSI). Beginning June 1, 2019 the TA Center support will be provided by NICHQ. The Division is working to ensure a smooth transition. More information about the TA Center will be shared soon.

Q: The EPIC site calendar ends in March. When will the new training and technical assistance provider be selected?

A: The training and technical assistance provider cooperative agreement will begin June 1, 2019. Please stay tuned for more detailed information in the near future.

Q: When the Community Health Worker course was introduced, HRSA required that a certain number of staff at each program complete the training. Does this requirement still exist, or is HRSA leaving it to sites to determine who needs to complete the training?

A: HRSA does not currently have a CHW training requirement.