

Memorandum

To: MIECHV Funded Home Visiting Programs

From: Benjamin Hazelton, Project Director

Date: November 11, 2018

Subject: Region X Innovation grant Updates

Home Visiting Partners:

This regional approach to an Innovation grant has been an unprecedented experiment. Like most experiments, it has produced lessons learned and lessons to apply. As an Innovation grant it had an ambitious vision to promote our home visiting workforce by better understanding who makes up the field of practice and what they need to succeed, to advance the skills of Reflective Practice and to enhance self-efficacy of the home visitors when working with families affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The grant was intended to be implemented over a 24-month period but was truncated to 18 months, in turn accelerating many recruitments and communications. This is being shared to provide context, not excuses, and the MIECHV team acknowledges that we have made many requests of your time. We apologize and hope we will all be able to benefit. If not immediately from one of the grant activities, then from the capacity that has been built through the grant.

The core activities of the Innovation grant are winding down and shifting to the evaluation. This seemed like a good time to share the status of activities and lay the foundation for what comes next.

The Innovation grant was parsed into core components that include Learn, Guide, Build and Evaluate. Specifically, these terms include the following:

- **Learn:** refers to the workforce study of the home visiting workforce throughout our federal region. The Butler Institute was awarded the contract for this work and has completed their surveys. Butler Institute determined that a series of content specific Briefs would be more useful to the field than on large evaluation. Butler Institute is finalizing the Briefs and will introduce them via a webinar on Tuesday November 27, 2018.
- **Guide:** refers to the development of shared guidelines on Reflective Supervision that support the practice of Reflective Supervision, are supportive of the array of home visiting models operating in the region and support advancement to Infant Mental Health Endorsement (I-MHE®). The Guidelines were developed by the Infant Mental Health Associations in the region with support from the national model offices and others. These Guidelines have been finalized, as well as

specific self-assessments that are available to the home visitor, supervisor and administrator of an organization implementing the Reflective Supervision Guidelines. The Oregon Infant Mental Health Association (OrIMHA) is planning to introduce the Guidelines via webinar in December (the specific date to be determined).

- **Build:** is the concept of building the self-efficacy of the home visiting workforce. It includes training in Facilitating Attuned iNteractions (FAN®), a specific model of reflective practice for home visiting developed by the Erickson Institute, and the NEAR-at-home Toolkit, a framework for supporting families with histories of ACEs. As it pertains to the Innovation grant, all trainings for FAN and NEAR-at-home are complete; however, the Oregon MIECHV team is committed to supporting additional training in both areas as state grant funds allow.

There is an additional component under the Build concept. It involves the engagement of human centered design to support the self-efficacy of home visiting professionals who work with families that are experiencing substance abuse, intimate partner violence and/or maternal mental health concerns. The contractor awarded for this work is Anthrotech. They have completed their Subject Matter Expert (SME) interviews, their focus groups and their workshops in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. We anticipate creative insights from this user (in this case, the home visitor) engagement in problem solving.

- **Evaluate:** is required of all federal Competitive grants. This contract has been awarded to our partners at Portland State University (PSU) and they will be looking at the effectiveness of the grant activities. As you might imagine, the work of PSU will not be complete until the close of the grant, closer to September 30, 2019.

Admittedly, this is a quick and high-level overview of the Innovation grant activities. Should you desire additional details please contact me at Benjamin.hazelton@state.or.us