



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

FOR

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE BLUEPRINT: PROVIDER WORKSHOPS

Allison Blake, Ph.D., L.S.W.
Commissioner

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The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is seeking participation from up to nine private or public not-for-profit organizations within New Jersey who have experience implementing evidence-based, evidence-informed, and/or evidence-supported/promising programs. The goal of this partnership is to help inform the development of a blueprint for how DCF and provider partners will approach the successful integration of evidence-based programming into the child welfare service array. Selected organizations must commit to participate in a series of four half-day workshops facilitated by DCF and the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN)¹.

DCF is interested in improving our position and the position of our provider partners to adopt and implement evidence-based, evidence-informed, and/or evidence-supported/promising programming that meets the needs and improves outcomes for the diverse families we serve across the 21 counties in New Jersey. The Department has made it a priority within our current Strategic Plan² to transition our service array to more evidence-supported service models. Through a grant provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Evidence-Based Practice Group, DCF will be partnering with NIRN to develop an Evidence-Based Practice Blueprint, which will serve as a guide for DCF and our provider partners on how to approach selection, adoption, and implementation of evidence-based, evidence-informed, and evidence-supported/promising programming for the families and communities we serve.

¹ National Implementation Research Network, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill: <http://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/>

² <http://www.state.nj.us/DCF/about/welfare/NJDCFStrategicPlan.pdf>

The Evidence-Based Practice Blueprint shall be published and available to all providers. This Call for Participation is seeking up to nine organizations, who are interested in partnering with the Department and supporting this effort through participation in provider workshops. There is no funding attached to this opportunity. Interested organizations should complete the form provided on the DCF Provider Notices website (<http://nj.gov/dcf/providers/notices/>) to apply for this opportunity. **In completing the application form, organizations are asked to provide clear and concise information about their eligibility and commitment to bringing a team of three staff to all four workshops.**

All applications for this Call for Participation are due by 12:00 PM EST on or before September 9, 2016. We ask that you, as our partner, not contact the Department directly, in person, or by telephone, concerning this Call for Participation. You may request information and/or assistance from DCFASKRFP@dcf.state.nj.us. Responses received after 12:00 PM EST on September 9, 2016 will not be considered for participation.

A. BACKGROUND

DCF is committed to integrating evidence-based practices into our service array and recognizes the important role they can play in improving outcomes for children and families and supporting the systems improvement goals outlined in DCF's Strategic Plan.

Furthermore, our commitment to the use of evidence to improve outcomes is aligned with federal priorities. Between 2010 and 2014, the White House provided the most expansive opportunity for the use of evidence in United States history, including allocations of 1.5 billion for evidence-based home visiting services and 1 billion for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs. The 2016 federal budget furthers this emphasis on evidence-based practices with priority areas including child care, disabilities, and job training.³

DCF seeks to influence broader adoption and effective implementation of evidence-based programs and practices. While choosing evidence-based practices is an important initial step towards improving outcomes, the transfer of these interventions into real world settings is a complicated process that is long-term, and requires specific oversight and commitment.⁴ Many of the challenges faced when implementing evidence-based, evidence-informed, and/or evidence-supported/promising programs are well documented in the literature, and “despite a robust body of evidence of effectiveness of social programs, few evidence-based programs have been scaled for population level improvements in social problems.”⁵ There is a risk of compromised outcomes for children

³ http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/articles/2011/4/obama-social-policy-haskins/04_obama_social_policy_haskins.pdf

⁴ Durlak, J., & DuPre, E. (2008). Implementation Matters: A review of research on the influence of implementation on program outcomes and factors effecting implementation. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 41, 327-350.

⁵ Supplee, L., & Metz, A. (2015). Opportunities and challenges in evidence-based social policy. *Society of Research in Child Development Social Policy Report*, 28(4).

and families when an evidence-based program is not intentionally designed for scaling, if it is not disseminated effectively, and/or if implementation is not supported.⁶

Scholarly research and practitioner experience in the area of implementation science go a long way in explaining the disconnection experienced between research and practice—and most encouragingly, offers pathways for organizations and systems to anticipate and mitigate the barriers of successful implementation from the beginning.⁷ DCF will partner with NIRN to employ implementation science frameworks and methods to develop a blueprint for how DCF and provider partners will approach the successful integration of evidence-based practices into the service array. The Evidence-Based Practice Blueprint will function as a compass through what can be a complex web of decision points and implementation challenges for internal and external stakeholders, as we work toward increasing the access and appropriate utilization of evidence-based programming and influencing the uptake of evidence-based, evidence-informed, and/or evidence-supported/promising programming by DCF’s provider and other systems partners. The development of the blueprint is to support evidence-based practice selection, implementation and ongoing continuous quality improvement.

A two-tiered process will be utilized for gathering information at both the systems and local levels to inform the blueprint. At a local level, DCF and NIRN will convene a series of four interactive half-day workshops with organizations, who have demonstrated experience implementing evidence-based, evidence-informed, and/or evidence-supported/promising interventions. Workshops will include both didactic and interactive methods and focus on four implementation science constructs including: 1) effective programs; 2) infrastructure and capacity; 3) implementation teams; 4) and data and feedback loops. The data collected through these workshops will inform the development of the Evidence-Based Practice Blueprint which shall be finalized by DCF with input from NIRN.

B. ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Applicant Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicants must have experience implementing an evidence-based, evidence-informed, and/or evidence-supported/promising practice. Definitions for each are provided below:
 - **Evidence-based** is defined as a manualized program/practice/intervention, which is included in a national clearinghouse or registry of evidence-based interventions; has documented evidence of effectiveness based on at least

⁶ Haskins, R., & Baron, J. (2011). The Obama Administration's evidence-based social policy initiatives: An Overview. Retrieved from http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/articles/2011/4/obama-social-policy-haskins/04_obama_social_policy_haskins.pdf

⁷ Metz, A., Naom, S., Halle, T., & Bartley, L. (2015). *An integrated stage-based framework for implementation of early childhood programs and systems*. Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation.

two rigorous, external research studies; and has demonstrated sustained effects at least one year post treatment.

- Evidence-informed is defined as having demonstrated effectiveness with one rigorous research study.
- Evidence-supported or promising practice is defined as showing some evidence of effectiveness through less rigorous research studies.

For the purpose of this application, rigorous research designs include experimental or quasi-experimental designs. Experimental designs use random assignment, and quasi-experimental designs used matched control groups. Less rigorous designs that may be considered include pre-post and case studies.

DCF will emphasize evidence-based programs in the selection, but evidence-informed and evidence-supported/promising practices will also be considered.

2. Applicants must commit to attend all four half-day provider workshops, which will be held at the DCF Professional Center (30 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901) and occur on October 27, 2016; January 5, 2017; March 7, 2017; and May 9, 2017.
3. Applicants must commit to bring a team of the same three staff to all four provider workshops. The three staff must consist of a leadership-level position, manager-level position, and practitioner-level position. The leadership-level position shall include the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, or Executive Director; the manager-level position shall include a manager or supervisor overseeing implementation of the evidence-based, evidence-informed, or evidence-supported/promising intervention named in your application; and the practitioner-level position shall include a practitioner or clinician who is delivering the named intervention directly to clients.

Other Considerations:

DCF is seeking a diverse sample of eligible organizations and will also consider the following when selecting organizations to participate:

1. Size of the organization
2. Length of time the organization has been implementing the evidence-based, evidence-informed, or evidence-supported/promising program
3. Geographic area/county(ies) where the evidence-based, evidence-informed, or evidence-supported/promising program is being provided

4. Target population being served by the evidence-based, evidence-informed, and/or evidence-supported/promising program

C. APPLICATION PROCESS

Organizations interested in participating must complete the form provided below. Completed forms are due by 12:00PM EST on or before September 9, 2016. Please submit responses to DCFASKRFP@dcf.state.nj.us. In email subject line please enter: EBP Blueprint Call for Participation.

Responses received after 12:00 PM EST on September 9, 2016 will not be considered for participation.