



**Updated to Include Q&A from 1/13/2012 Potential Applicant Call:
See Addendum on pp. 9-14**

**Prevention of Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infection among Foster Youth Institute
Application**

Application Due Date: January 31, 2012

Selection Announcement: February 27, 2012

Pre-Launch Call with Institute Participants: April 4, 2012 @ 2:00pm Eastern Time / 1:00pm Central Time / 12noon Mountain Time / 11am Pacific Time.

Institute Dates: April 26-27, 2012
June 21-22, 2012
October 4-5, 2012
December 6-7, 2012 (½ days)
June 20-21, 2013 (Monitoring session) (½ days)

Institute Location: All sessions will take place in Washington, D.C.

Funding: The Institute will cover the costs of the Institute, lodging and food for the participants. Airfare and ground transportation will be provided by the selected state/locality. Limited scholarships for travel may be available.

Period of Performance: April-December 2012 for Institute
January 2013-March 2014 for Monitoring and Evaluation

Institute Contact: Robin O'Brien
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Potential Applicant Contact Information: If you would like to receive summary notes from the potential applicant conference call or other additional information that may become available, please email your name and contact information.

Overview of the Institute

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (The National Campaign) and American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) and its affiliate, the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA), with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation are partnering in a three-year “Integration of Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention into State and Local Foster Care Systems” project. The project partners are jointly presenting an Institute that combines learning from experts, peer-to-peer support, and intersession technical assistance to help teams from at least five states and localities incorporate evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention practices into their core programs for foster youth. The project’s ultimate goal is for evidence-based practices that are customized for foster youth to become value-added components of day-to-day practice in child welfare agencies nationwide.

Project staff has adapted the evidence-based teen and sexually transmitted infection (STI) program Making Proud Choices to meet the unique needs of youth in and preparing to leave foster care, with assistance from the program’s developers, a National Advisory Council of health and human services practitioners, teen pregnancy and foster care experts, and current and former foster youth. The Institute will help teams from at least five states incorporate the program and related practices into the products and services they provide to youth in foster care through, for example, their independent living or transition planning programs.

General Approach

The Institute will bring at least five teams from state and local public child welfare systems together for an exclusive, intensive, and customized development experience. Participating teams will learn to use models, tools, and methods from the following resources:

- [Making Proud Choices](#) curriculum customized for a foster youth population;
- [Change Management](#) national guidance developed by state and local public agency leaders, child welfare researchers, academicians, and stakeholders as part of the Positioning Public Child Welfare Initiative; and,
- APHSA’s [Organizational Effectiveness](#) practice and the DAPIM™ approach to continuous improvement developed through more than 60 continuous improvement projects in 25 states.

With facilitation from APHSA Organizational Effectiveness consultants and peer-to-peer support from other teams, Institute participants will make systematic, sustainable improvements in their agencies to improve outcomes for youth in and preparing to leave foster care. The Institute is designed to have the following impacts:

- Participating agencies will become more effective in their provision of teen and STI prevention products and services which will lead youth in and preparing to leave foster care to achieve better outcomes; and,

- Participants will use the models, tools, and methods they learn beyond this project to diagnose their agencies' problems, be proactive in assessing and planning for change, and drive sustainable, positive change in their agencies.

During the course of the Institute, participating teams will be expected to do the following:

- Complete pre-work prior to attendance at the first session, including required reading and answering reflective thinking questions;
- Actively participate in eight full days of sessions conducted by the institute team;
- With technical assistance from the institute team, complete substantial work between in-person sessions to apply models, tools, and methods learned during the Institute;
- Provide the evaluation team with information on implementation activities throughout the course of the Institute; and,
- Participate in the development of case studies to be conducted and written by the institute team on each of the participating states/localities.

The Institute is highly interactive and participants are expected to prepare and make a strong commitment to completing activities during the pre-work, in-person, and intersession phases of the Institute. In-person sessions will combine learning of new models, tools, and methods, hands-on team activities to plan and implement improvements to the agency's teen pregnancy prevention products and services, and peer-to-peer critiques and support.

Customized facilitation and other technical assistance throughout the duration of the Institute will be provided to the state/locality at no cost. Support from the agency leadership is vital to the success of the Institute and expected through commitment of time and resources.

While we share a commitment to toward young mothers who are already pregnant or parenting in the foster care system, the young fathers who may or may not be in the foster care system, and their children, this project is focused on prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection. To address the need for a continuum of approaches to support adolescents in foster care that starts with prevention, includes services to those who are already pregnant and parenting, and returns to the prevention of subsequent pregnancies, we will be working in close partnership in 2012 and beyond with the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) as it convenes a peer network of public state and local child welfare agencies and tribes committed to expanding their service array and policy framework to improve outcomes for pregnant and parenting youth in the foster care system. States and localities who have applied to be a part of CSSP's peer network are also welcome to apply to participate in APHSA and the National Campaign's Institute.

Participants

At least five teams will be selected to participate in the Institute. Each team will consist of three to five participants. Participants must include public agency staff. At least one member of each team must be a senior leader with authority to make decisions about budgets and staffing. Participants may also include agency partners (e.g., staff from public partner agencies like Public Health or private agencies contracted to provide Independent Living or Transition Planning services) and/or youth representatives. Each team must designate a project manager.

Each team will be sponsored by a state or local public child welfare agency. Only one application from a state agency (either the state agency or a local agency within that state) will be accepted. Successful applications will demonstrate readiness and commitment to implement the program to improve outcomes for youth in and preparing to leave foster care.

A selection committee comprised of representatives from the National Campaign, APHSA, NAPCWA, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation will review the applications. The Institute will cover the costs of in-person sessions, intersession technical assistance, lodging, and food for the participants. Airfare and ground transportation will be provided by the selected states/localities. All sessions will be in Washington, DC. Limited scholarships for travel may be available.

Sponsors

With generous financial assistance from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the following organizations have partnered to sponsor the Institute:

National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy seeks to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families. Its specific strategy is to prevent teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy among single, young adults. The National Campaign supports a combination of responsible values and behavior by both men and women and responsible policies in both the public and private sectors. It believes that if it is successful, child and family well-being will improve. The National Campaign was founded in 1996.

APHSA

The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) is a nonprofit, bipartisan agency of state and local human service agencies and individuals who work in or are interested in public human service programs. APHSA's mission is to develop and promote policies and practices that improve the health and well-being of families, children and adults. APHSA educates Congress, the media and the general public on social policies and practices and help state and local public human service agencies achieve their desired outcomes in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, child care, child support, Medicaid,

food stamps, child welfare and other program areas and issues that affect families, the elderly and people who are economically disadvantaged.

NAPCWA

The National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA) is a national association representing public child welfare agencies. Founded in 1983, NAPCWA is an affiliate housed within the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA). NAPCWA is committed to ensuring that children in the public child welfare system have safe, permanent homes by supporting and enhancing the system's ability to successfully implement effective programs, practices and policies.

NAPCWA is recognized as a national leader in promoting sound public policy, modeling programs and practices and developing critical capacity building resources needed to achieve positive outcomes for children, youth and families.

Specific Activities

Institute activities are scheduled to begin in April, 2012 and end in June, 2013. Monitoring and evaluation activities with participants will continue until March 2014. The major activities of the Institute include the following in-person working sessions:

- Three sessions consisting of two full days (10am-5pm day one and 8:30am-3:30pm day two), and,
- Two sessions consisting of two half-days (1-5pm day one and 8:30am-12:30pm day two).

Intersession work between the in-person sessions will include:

- Forming and briefing a Sponsor Group of senior agency leaders;
- Forming and leading a continuous improvement (CI) team of agency staff, partners, and/or clients;
- Providing information to the program evaluators, such as characteristics of the project team, barriers to implementation, progress on expected outcomes;
- With the CI team and, where appropriate, smaller work teams, creating a series of change management work products; and,
- Implementing change plans to drive sustainable change.

The Sponsor Group should include leaders whose decisions regarding resources and strategy directly impact work to prevent foster youth from getting pregnant and contracting sexually transmitted diseases. The CI team should include staff from multiple departments and levels of the sponsoring agency and may also include staff from partnering public or private agencies and/or clients like foster youth or foster parents.

Each team will be assigned an Institute staff liaison who will be their “go to” person for technical assistance throughout the Institute. The nature and extent of technical assistance will vary depending on each team’s needs and wants. Technical assistance may be in the form of on-site visits, phone conferences, and/or review of draft written work products and is provided at no cost to the agency.

A third party evaluator will be conducting a process evaluation for the duration of the Institute, including during initial stages of post-Institute implementation. The evaluation will involve the leadership of the sponsoring agency as well as organizations partnering in the effort. An agency’s application signifies its commitment to participate in evaluation activities, including meeting with the evaluation team and providing information on progress towards expected outcomes.

The Institute is scheduled for the following dates. All agency team members are expected to attend each date. We are planning for all sessions to be held in Washington, D.C.

Activity	In-Person Sessions
Day 1 and Day 2	April 26-27, 2012
Day 3 and Day 4	June 21-22, 2012
Day 5 and Day 6	October 4-5, 2012
Day 7	December 6-7, 2012 (½ days)
Day 8	June 20-21, 2013 (Monitoring session) (½ days)

Application Guidelines

The following are required elements of the application to participate in the Institute:

- A signed letter of commitment to support a change effort from the leadership of the sponsoring agency and any organizations partnering in the effort. Each letter should address the role of agency leaders in the process and how leaders will dedicate time and resources to the effort.
- A list of confirmed team members. Please include each team member’s name, title, address, phone and fax numbers, email address and 1-2 sentences explaining the reason for each member’s participation. The membership list should also note which individual will serve as the project manager. Team members must be able to attend all Institute dates.
- A 5-7 page narrative described below in the “Criteria for Assessing the Narrative” section that clearly responds to the questions and explains why the state/locality is seeking to be selected for the Institute.
- Data on the scope and scale of the problem:
 - The number of children and youth, by age group, who are in foster care in the state/locality.
 - The number of children who become pregnant or father a child while in care, per year.

- The number of children in care who are diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, per year.
- Follow-up data for children who have left care, including the incidence of pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and STIs within three years of leaving care.
- Basic demographic information about the state/locality, such as total population, population of children ages 0-17, pregnancy and live birth rates among teenagers (county data), and rate of HIV/AIDS and STIs among teenagers (state data).

Criteria for Assessing the Narrative

The narrative portion of the application should address each of the criteria laid out below:

- **Challenges and Benefits**
What are your challenges and how do you see integration of an evidence-based pregnancy and STI prevention curriculum benefiting and improving outcomes for children, youth and families?
- **Readiness for Change**
Provide evidence or explain why your state/locality is in a good position and ready to make the needed changes to address the challenges identified above. Describe previous actions or attempts made by the agency to make system changes and how this effort will be similar or different.
- **Sponsorship and Resources**
Provide evidence or explain how your agency will ensure senior leader support for the time, resources, and follow-through required to participate in the Institute and sustain change following its conclusion. What types of resources will your agency be able to allocate? How much time can team members devote to intersession work and post-institute follow-through? How will you ensure consistent sponsorship during and following the Institute?
- **Scope of Change**
Review the [Making Proud Choices](#) curriculum and PPCWG [Change Management](#) guidance. How does the approach described in the curriculum compare to how you currently provide services to youth preparing for independent living? How does the approach to change management described on www.ppcwg.org compare to how you currently manage change? In what general ways do you see your organization and its practices changing as a result of participating in the Institute?
- **Team Members**
Please describe the breadth and depth of experience, influence and commitment of proposed team members who would be participating in the Institute. Note who will be the project manager, and detail the individual's relevant experience managing projects.

Disclaimer

Submitting an application to participate in the Institute is not binding on APHSA, the National Campaign, or NAPCWA, nor does it constitute a contractual offer. APHSA, its affiliate, NAPCWA, and the National Campaign reserve the right to reject any or all applications and to negotiate final terms and conditions that may differ those stated above. Under no circumstances shall APHSA, the National Campaign, or NAPCWA be liable for costs incurred by any person in connection with the preparation and submission of an application to participate in the Institute.

Each application will be reviewed by a selection team designated by the Institute Team. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. EST on January 31, 2012 and should be sent to the following address:

Attention: Robin O'Brien

APHSA

1133 Nineteenth Street, NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20036

Applications may be sent via e-mail to robin.obrien@aphsa.org

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Robin O'Brien at 202.682.0100 x 246 or at robin.obrien@aphsa.org.

ADDENDUM

Pregnancy and STI Prevention for Youth in Foster Care Project with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Potential Applicant Conference Call

Questions & Answers

13 January 2012

2:00p.m. EST

Question:

Which definition of “foster care” is being used for the purposes of this application and the overall project? Does this include foster home providers or all out-of-home placements?

Answer:

The hope for this project is that the modifications to the curriculum will apply to youth in foster care in various settings. The ultimate goal is to strengthen services to all young people in out-of-home placements.

Question:

What curriculum will state teams be implementing in their child welfare systems?

Answer:

The evidence-based curriculum Making Proud Choices! was selected by an advisory council of child welfare and teen pregnancy prevention professionals to be adapted for the unique needs of youth in foster care and those preparing for independence. With assistance from the developer, Dr. Loretta Jemmott, The National Campaign, APHSA and their affiliate NAPCWA, are working together to tailor the program without jeopardizing the fidelity of the evidence-based model.

Question:

The original Making Proud Choices! categorizes age groups by school based grade level. Will the modified curriculum categorize age groups by grade level as well and can the curriculum be implemented in settings besides school?

Answer:

The age groups for the modified curriculum will be for chronological age as opposed to grade level. It will be appropriate for a variety of settings outside the school systems as well. The developer believes that the content in the curriculum is appropriate for youth within the age range of 11-14 years old as well as older teens and young adults in foster care.

Question:

What is the overall purpose of the Institute?

Answer:

The immediate purpose of the Institute is to help three-five person teams and their colleagues from selected states and localities:

- *understand the Making Proud Choices! curriculum;*
- *integrate the curriculum in a sustainable manner into their existing child welfare systems; and,*
- *learn to apply change management tools and methods developed and refined through more than 60 human services continuous improvement projects in 25 states.*

Our longer-term purpose is to:

- *equip participating systems to continuously improve any aspect of their work using the tools and methods they learn in the institute; and,*
- *spread gains and apply lessons learned from the Institute to help the field of child welfare as a whole strengthen its pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection prevention supports to youth in foster care.*

For more information on the Institute, please review the application [here](#).

Question:

Who is eligible to participate in the Institute? How many people make up a team?

Answer:

A team can be made up of a variety of child welfare agency professionals and others within their network, including, for example, youth and representatives from partnering public and private agencies. At least one member of each team attending the Institute must be a senior leader with authority to make decisions about budgets and staffing. At least one team member must be employed by a state or local public child welfare agency.

While there is no limit on the number of people working on the project within a respective state or locality only 3-5 representatives of the team may attend the Institute. A total of five teams will be selected to participate.

Question:

When and where will the Institute take place?

Answer:

All Institute sessions will occur in Washington, DC. The dates of the Institute are as follows:

- *April 26-27, 2012*
- *June 21-22, 2012*

- October 4-5, 2012
- December 6-7, 2012
- June 20-21, 2013

The sessions in April, June, and October of 2012 will take the full two days. The sessions in December of 2012 and June of 2013 will be made up of two half days.

Question:

Will travel costs for the Institute be covered?

Answer:

While the Institute will cover food and lodging, participants are responsible for their own travel. Limited scholarships may be available; however, the amount of scholarship funding is yet to be determined and will depend on demonstrated needs and available funds. We urge that you do not let the inability to cover travel stop you from applying.

Question:

Will there be an evaluation of the project?

Answer:

There will be a process evaluation of the project completed by staff at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Social Work. From January 2012-March 2013, the project will focus primarily on the Institute. During April 2013-March 2014 the Institute will focus on the implementation of the curriculum within teams' respective states or localities. Each Institute team will determine as part of its change planning how it will monitor impact of the changes to be implemented. While our ideal is to conduct an Institute-wide outcomes evaluation an additional year would need to be added to the project, which is yet to be determined.

Question:

Is the volume of data available to a particular state or locality on youth in their child welfare systems going to play a role in the selection process?

Answer:

No. The application inquires about available data to get an idea of what kind and quality of information teams will have access to throughout facilitation and implementation of the project. It simply establishes a baseline for The National Campaign and APHSA while assessing teams' resources.

If you do not have access to all of the requested data at the time of application please do not let that deter you from applying. Please note types of data you currently are unable to provide since

building the capability to collect those data could potentially be something you build into your system's change plan if accepted into the Institute.

Question:

Is it alright to submit data on parenting teen mothers and fathers within the child welfare system?

Answer:

Yes. While this program specifically focuses on the prevention of pregnancy and STIs, the goal is the program would also be applicable toward the prevention of subsequent pregnancies for young people in foster care who already parenting.

Question:

On the Institute application, data for youth ages 0-17 is requested. Does this project also apply for young people ages 18-21 who are covered by the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act?

Answer:

Yes. The modifications to the program will include that age group.

Question:

Can states who received PREP (Personal Responsibility and Education Program) grants still apply for this project?

Answer:

Yes, as long as it is understood that Making Proud Choices! is the only evidence-based program eligible for use for this particular project.

Question:

Could PREP grantees potentially use their PREP funds towards this project?

Answer:

We would encourage you to check with your project officer to determine if PREP funds could be used toward this project (specifically towards travel to the Institute).

Question:

Will this version of *Making Proud Choices!* be useable with Tier 1 Funds? Would it need to under-go a medical accuracy review?

Answer:

The National Campaign and APHSA are aware of the review process for adaptations to programs on the HHS list of evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs (those eligible for Tier 1 funding). We hope to submit the adaptations to OAH after they have been finalized. The adaptations are still under development. We are working closely with the developer to ensure that any adaptations made do not compromise the core components of the curriculum.

Question:

Is this curriculum in line with the newly released National Sexuality Education Standards for schools?

Answer:

Since the adaptations to the curriculum are not yet completed, that cannot be determined as of right now; however, once the adaptations are finalized, we will measure the curriculum against those standards.

Question:

Is it encouraged for a state currently using the original *Making Proud Choices!* in a school setting to apply for this project?

Answer:

It is dependent upon individual experience. If you believe that implementing the modified curriculum specifically for youth in foster care while also using the original curriculum in settings outside of this project will further your work, then please apply and provide us your reasoning. It is of interest to The National Campaign and APHSA to see how teams will connect their previous and ongoing work either with sexuality education or the child welfare system with this project. Applicants are encouraged to describe these connections in their application narratives.

Question:

Will the curriculum include components for young people in the foster care who have been commercially sexually exploited?

Answer:

The curriculum does not specifically address this population; however, it is a priority of the curriculum adaptations currently being completed to add components that address trauma young people in foster care may have experienced prior to participating in this program.

Question:

Will the number of young people in foster care in an applicant's state or locality affect the decision making process when selecting teams to participate in the project?

Answer:

Not as a major factor. The focus is on selecting teams whose child welfare systems have a strong foundation to improve services for youth in foster care and sustain gains for years after the conclusion of the Institute. In reviewing applications, we will be focusing first and foremost on factors such as readiness for change, alignment to strategy, and connection between the specific work of the Institute and the broader work of helping young people in foster care prepare for independence versus the actual number of young people impacted directly by participation in the Institute. Consistent with our longer-term purpose, however, we are looking for potential to bring the gains from the Institute to larger populations of youth over time. We encourage applicants to briefly describe the potential for this kind of spread resulting from their participation in the Institute (e.g., by giving examples of how the applying state or locality has previously helped neighboring/other networked states or localities benefit from innovations developed in their community).

Please remember, that all applications are due by end of the day TUESDAY, JANUARY 31ST.

If there are any remaining questions, please contact:

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