

Capacity Building Academy on Designing HIV Care for the Margins: Request for Applications

Applications Due: May 15, 2021

Summary

Purpose: The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with support from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is requesting applications from state and territorial health agencies to participate in a capacity-building academy that will foster innovation and build equity in how HIV care is delivered.

Request for Applications Released: April 21, 2021

Applications Due: May 15, 2021

Selection Announcement: May 24, 2021

Project Period: June 2021 to February 2022

Number of Participants: Up to four state/territorial health agency (S/THA) teams

ASTHO Point of Contact: ASTHO's population health and innovation team (PHI@astho.org)

Overview

Although there have been significant strides in mitigating HIV rates in the past decade, there are severe racial [disparities in new HIV diagnoses](#). In 2018, 69% of all diagnoses were gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men. In the same year, Black and Hispanic populations accounted for 42% and 27% of all new diagnoses respectively. These statistics highlight the need to hold health equity central in efforts to address the epidemic.

To help support these efforts, ASTHO will support leadership within state and territorial health agencies through a capacity building academy. The half-year academy, themed “Designing for the Margins,” will focus on advancing health equity in HIV care by supporting participants in identifying barriers and sharing best practices for community engagement and the provision of culturally competent care. ASTHO will select three to four states/territories with up to three participants per state/territorial health agency.

The goals of the capacity building academy are to:

- Encourage S/THA leadership to design systems, particularly related to HIV care, through a health equity lens.
- Support S/THA leadership on identifying existing barriers in HIV care.

- Support S/THA staff in identifying best and promising practices for community engagement and partnerships with non-traditional partners (e.g., faith-based organizations, historically black colleges and universities, departments of housing, community advocates).

Activities and Expectations for Participation

The capacity building academy will focus on advancing health equity in HIV care through sharing of best and promising practices around HIV care. The academy will support S/THAs to identify and address barriers to care, as well encourage fostering of partnerships with non-traditional partners. A combination of activities will be offered to help states achieve the goals identified through the academy. Participants will commit to the following activities:

- Participation in an ASTHO webinar series featuring subject matter experts and technical assistance (four bi-monthly, 60-minute webinars). Topics include:
 - **Webinar 1** – What does it mean to “design for the margins”?
 - **Webinar 2** – Identifying barriers to reaching marginalized communities and advancing health equity in HIV care.
 - **Webinar 3** – Introduce a framework for identifying and implementing strategies to address structural, institutional, and political barriers to advancing health equity in HIV care.
 - **Webinar 4** – Cultural humility in HIV care
- Participation in peer-to-peer learning virtual convenings (four bi-monthly calls):
 - The state teams will come together to share progress on a health equity-related goal identified in their application, have peer to peer discussions on progress and challenges, and identify next steps.
 - Each call will feature one state spotlight kick-off presentation by one of the participating S/THA teams. The S/THA team will speak to a key challenge they are experiencing in their work, which will be followed by a discussion with other state team members on ways to address it.
- Completion of a final evaluation survey detailing if and how you will apply new knowledge gained through the academy to your public health practice.

Eligibility

All S/THA staff working on HIV projects are eligible to apply to participate in the HIV Capacity Building Academy. ASTHO will select leadership from three to four S/THAs. Priority will be given to S/THAs with readiness and capacity to advance health equity in HIV care.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Each applicant must identify a health equity-focused goal they intend to pursue as part of their participation in the academy.
- Priority will be given to those states who have been prioritized in the federal EHE initiative due to high incidence rates.

Application Form

Please complete the following form and return to [ASTHO](mailto:phi@astho.org) (phi@astho.org) by [May 15, 2021](#).

Contact Information
<p>State/Territorial Health Agency Name:</p> <p>Primary Contact/Applicant Name:</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Phone:</p> <p>Email:</p> <p>Can ASTHO provide any assistance to accommodate ADA needs?</p>
Application
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What efforts have your health agency undertaken around advancing health equity within your HIV/AIDS or Infectious Disease programming?2. Please describe your experience in working with FQHCs and CBOs around HIV?3. What would you gain from participating in the HIV Capacity Building Academy? / Do you have any specific technical assistance needs relating to improving access to HIV prevention and treatment services among marginalized populations?4. Please identify a health equity goal that you would like to achieve through your participation in this capacity building activity:5. Who else will be participating from your state/territorial health agency?