



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

ECHO Public Health: Operationalizing Anti-Racism, Social Justice, and Health Equity Principles through Performance Improvement

Funding Amount: One award, funded up to \$60,000

Project Period: April 1, 2021 – July 31, 2021

Eligibility: This opportunity is available to NNPHI member institutes and Public Health Training Centers

Application Deadline: March 19, 2021 at 5:00 pm PT

Opportunity

NNPHI seeks to partner with one (1) Public Health Institute or Regional Public Health Training Center to design and implement an **ECHO Public Health** series. The goal of the series is to build capacity in state, local, Tribal, and territorial health departments related to operationalizing social justice, health equity, and anti-racism principles in performance improvement processes.

Background

The public health workforce is facing new realities that require professionals to prepare, respond, and adapt to rapidly changing landscapes. Currently, the workforce has specialized experts in distinct scientific disciplines (e.g., epidemiology, laboratory sciences, chronic disease prevention), which was an effective approach in the past. However, the workforce of the future must think strategically, act from a systems perspective, and be skilled at building strategic partnerships.

And yet, the field of public health builds the capacity of its workers largely through “one-off” training events (e.g., single online training), which generally do not allow learners the opportunity to practice new skills in real settings. In order to meet the current and coming challenges, public health practitioners need high-quality, multi-modal learning opportunities to build meaningful skills.

Purpose

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes) is a workforce capacity-building model designed to demopolize knowledge through increasing access to subject matter expertise and peer-to-peer experience-based learning. Originally intended for medical providers, ECHO uses video technology to connect individuals around a common goal. Through the ECHO model, learning is founded on best practice strategies and reinforced through the group processing of a current and common experience or “case.” This experience-based learning helps participants increase their capacity and professional network through engaged, relevant, and supported learning communities.

NNPHI became an ECHO Replication Partner in early 2019. Since that time, we have launched ECHO Public Health and have been leading efforts to translate the ECHO model to build workforce capacity for addressing complex and seemingly intractable public health problems. NNPHI has led several ECHO series, and has funded and trained member and partner organizations to develop and implement ECHOs. Through this opportunity, NNPHI seeks to partner with one public health institute

or regional public health training center to build on the lessons learned from these series and apply them to address racism as a public health crisis.

The intended results of the initiative include:

1. An ECHO series curriculum designed for performance improvement professionals at state, local, Tribal, and territorial health departments
2. Increased capacity of 30-50 public health professionals to operationalize social justice, health equity, and anti-racist principles and strategies in their performance improvement work (including community health assessments and improvement plans, workforce development initiatives, quality improvement processes, program evaluations, strategic plans, etc.)
3. Identification of opportunities for improvement, expansion, and evaluation of the ECHO Public Health model

Topic areas for ECHO series:

The topic for this ECHO is **operationalizing** social justice, health equity, and anti-racist principles through performance improvement processes. To adequately narrow this topic, applicants will be responsible for proposing the specific focus and topic for the curriculum. Example topics include addressing root causes of inequities through data, hiring and retention practices for a diverse workforce, supporting social movements through community planning efforts, equitable community engagement strategies and practices, etc. These topics may show up as session themes, case presentations, or through small group discussions with a focus on operationalizing skills, strategies, and concepts to affect change. *These are just examples and we do not expect a single ECHO series to address multiple topics, but instead it should focus on a single area for in-depth exploration and discussion.*

Scope of Work

1. With support of a consultant (provided by NNPHI), design an ECHO curriculum for the public health workforce to address
2. Identify subject matter experts to serve as presenters and panelists for the series
3. Engage in regular collaboration calls with NNPHI team and consultant throughout the curriculum development and implementation process
4. Implement one ECHO series through coordination of logistics, communication with SME, track attendees and collaborate with NNPHI on additional implementation activities.

Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrated capacity to implement project on a four- to six-month timeline.
2. Access to engage (or serve as) subject matter experts.
3. Clear demonstration of how participation in this funding opportunity will benefit/build capacity of the organization and potential future uses of the ECHO model.
4. Completeness of proposal. *Note: incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.*
5. Reasonable cost and justification for costs.

Eligibility

Applicants must be from a public health institute (NNPHI members) or a regional public health training center. *Please note that applicants need not have completed an ECHO series prior to this opportunity. Training will be made available to partner staff and the ECHO series will be implemented through NNPHI's ECHO Zoom license and ECHO Replication Agreement. The Project ECHO Immersion Training led by the University of New Mexico is recommended, but not required.*

Costs

It is estimated that the primary expenses will be staff time, stipends for subject matter experts, and costs to cover material development.

Questions

FAQs: Applicants may submit questions by typing directly into this [FAQ Google Doc](#). Questions will be accepted until **March 10, 2021 at 5 pm PT**. Questions will not be answered after the deadline. Please check back frequently to review the latest questions/answers.

How to Apply

NNPHI uses *Smartsheet* online tool to collect proposal materials. Submit your proposal using the link below. You cannot save your proposal submission and return to it later; however, you can submit more than once if necessary.

Please submit a proposal of no more than four single-spaced pages responding to the application questions below.

Submit your proposal [here](#) by March 19, 2021 at 5 pm PT.

Note: If you have any technical difficulties, please contact Meghan Wolfe at mwolfe@nnphi.org. We recommend you submit early to avoid problems in the final hours. **In fairness to all applicants, we will not accept any proposals that are submitted after the deadline.** After submitting your proposal, if you do not receive a confirmation of receipt within 24 hours, please contact Meghan Wolfe at mwolfe@nnphi.org.

Selection

Applicants will be notified of selection status the week of March 22, 2021.

Activity	Date
RFP released	March 3, 2021
FAQs: Questions accepted until...	March 10, 2021
Proposals due	March 19, 2021
Applicants notified	Week of March 22, 2021
Project begins	April 1, 2021
Project period	April 1 – July 31, 2021*

**The end date for this project may extend into the fall based on the development process and timing for implementing the ECHO series.*

Notice to Applicants

Please be advised that NNPHI reserves the right to modify the terms of the RFP with reasonable notification to all interested parties. This RFP and any related discussions or evaluations by anyone create no rights or obligations whatsoever. NNPHI may cancel or delay this solicitation at any time at its own discretion. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, the contract executed by NNPHI and the selected applicant, if any, will be the exclusive statement of rights and obligations extending from this solicitation. Applicants are further advised that all information submitted in response to this solicitation shall remain in the public domain.

Funding for this project is pr has been provided to the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) through a Cooperative Agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (5 NU38OT000303-03-00). NNPHI has collaborated with CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support to support this work. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Application Questions

Submit your proposal [here](#) by **March 19, 2021 at 5:00 pm PT.**

In up to four single-spaced pages, please respond to the following questions:

Applicant Name:

Primary Contact:

Email Address:

Phone number:

1. Please introduce yourself.
 - a. Briefly describe your organization's history with workforce capacity building initiatives.
 - b. How will your participation in this initiative (the creation/implementation of an ECHO series) strengthen your organization's capacity and reach for workforce capacity building initiatives?
2. What social justice, health equity, and/or anti-racism topic area do you anticipate will be the focus of the ECHO series? Please describe and provide draft goals for the series, and example session topics and potential speakers.
 - a. How will these sessions operationalize your selected topic area to affect change?
**Note: you will have the opportunity to revise this section this as project develops. This is your best estimation at this time.*
3. Please share about the staff / team members who will be engaged with this work, including:
 - a. Who will be the lead/primary point of contact?
 - b. Description of the time/capacity key staff have to engage in the work
4. Additional Items (these are not included in the 4-page limit)
 - a. Cost estimate: Please provide a budget and budget narrative that aligns with the scope of work and is prepared according to the CDC Budget Preparation Guidelines. Please plan for one call weekly with the NNPHI team.
 - b. Resumes for key staff who will be engaged.
 - c. One example of a similar workforce development product or activity that illustrates your ability to develop and implement a Project ECHO series. Hyperlink or attachment is acceptable.