

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Maternal and Child Health Bureau

Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs



Advancing Systems of Services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Funding Opportunity Number: HRSA-18-069

Funding Opportunity Type: New

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 93.110

Technical Assistance Webinar Recording: [HERE](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Where can I find the Advancing Systems of Services for CYSHCN NOFO?**

To access and apply for the Advancing Systems of Services for CYSHCN, please visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and search for the funding opportunity number, HRSA-18-069. Additionally, the NOFO is accessible on the Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s Funding Announcement website, accessible [here](#).

- **Who is eligible to apply for the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO)?**

Any public or private entity, including an Indian tribe or tribal organizations is eligible to apply.

- **For the purposes of determining the indirect cost rate, is this program to be considered research?**

No, this program is not considered research.

- **Is there any benefit to applicants applying as an already formed network? Is there a benefit for applicants to discuss/align suggested network goals and activities with other groups applying in different focus areas? And, is there a benefit for naming these potential network partners in the application?**

Applicants can apply and be awarded only one focus area—there is not an option for one application in all three focus areas. Please refer to the Project Narrative, Introduction (page 14), where the applicant is encouraged to, “describe the purpose of the proposed project, including discussions of CYSHCN and their needs, the focus area to which the applicant is applying, the system that serves this population, and the overall network vision.”

An applicant may have a relationship with another applicant that is applying, but there is no certainty that potential partnering applicants will receive an award.

- **Is there an expectation that there be some consistency in the description of the overall network vision between individual applications? In other words, if the three funded applications all describe a different approach, will harmonizing those three visions be something that is intended post-award?**

The Program Description (page 2) describes establishing the network. Most specific, the network recipients will, “enter into a MOU with the other recipients under this NOFO within 3 months of the Notice of Award, which may include, but is not limited to, describing methods of communication and consensus building, decisions for data sharing, and mechanisms to ensure network accountability.

Additionally, the NOFO asks awarded recipients to participate in a network kick-off meeting within three months of the Notice of Award (NOA), which would allow recipients to harmonize their collective vision for the network.

- **What is the difference between the Network Conceptual Model, as described on page 3 in the NOFO, and the Focus Area Logic Model, as described in the Work Plan on page 17?**

The network’s conceptual model, as described on page 3, is a program requirement for successful recipients to establish the overall network. The focus area logic model, described on page 17, is a requirement for the Project Narrative. Also, please refer to Review Criterion 4: IMPACT, which allocates points to the focus area logic model.

- **What are the program priorities, as described in the NOFO?**

The key priority of the program is to strengthen the system of services for CYSHCN and their families by addressing three core systems focus areas (medical home, transition, and health care financing models) through the provision of technical assistance, training, education, partnership building, policy analysis, and research.

- **How are ‘best practices’ defined in the NOFO?**

MCHB is not advocating for a specific framework, but encourages applicants to include evidence-based/or-informed strategies when thinking about adoption of best practices.

- **Why does the funding differ for the Medical Home Focus Area? Does the \$820,000 ceiling include \$166,000, \$154,000 and \$50,000? Are indirect amounts included in these totals?**

The total estimated award amount for the Medical Home focus area is \$820,000, which includes both direct and indirect costs. The amount listed for Healthy Tomorrows Resource Center (\$166,000), TA/T for condition specific and/or early/newborn screening programs (\$154,000), and the \$50,000 for network activities are not supplemental. Pages 11 and 20 in the NOFO further describe the summary of funding.

- **Under Program Objectives, Individual Focus Area Objective, what source should applicants use to determine a baseline?**

Page 1 of the NOFO asks applicants to propose a baseline and collect data to reach the following objective.

- **For the Medical Home Focus Area, Additional Required Activities Part B applicants to "Support TA/T and education to other HRSA grant programs, such as condition specific and/or early/newborn screening programs to improve provider engagement and increase awareness of and access to the patient/family-centered medical home." Is this funding specifically focused on Early Hearing Detection and Intervention? Or,**

does it go beyond EHDI to include other conditions and related programs? Are there specific HRSA-funded grant programs an applicant should consider including a focus on in their application?

The funding is not specific to the EHDI program, and attempts to capture other condition-specific programs the Division funds.

- **On page 4, under Core Function: Policy Analysis and Research, the guidance asks applicants to "monitor, analyze, and report emerging state and federal trends, legislation, regulation, and other relevant policies". Are there stipulations to how grant recipients can communicate on federal legislation and regulations?**

As part of Core Function 3, Policy Analysis and Research, recipients are required to monitor, analyze, and report emerging state and federal trends, legislation, regulations, and other relevant policies. There are no restrictions on monitoring, analyzing, or reporting on data trends, legislation, regulations, or other policies. This activity does not allow recipients to engage in lobbying or advocacy work regarding state or federal legislation, regulation, or policy, which is stated in the Application Guide under [45 CFR § 75.450 Lobbying](#).

- **Should the evaluation plan mainly incorporate/include a quality improvement framework/methodology?**

Applicants are required to describe the plan for program evaluation that monitors and tracks progress towards the select focus area outcomes and overall impact of the project. The program evaluation should monitor ongoing processes and progress towards goals and objectives of the project, further described on pages 17-18 of the NOFO.

- **How much detail should be included in an evaluation plan about the network?**

Aligning with Core Function 5, Evaluation (page 5) applicants are expected to develop and implement a plan to monitor and evaluate the select focus area and the network. This requirement corresponds with Review Criterion 3, Evaluation Plan, described on page 26.

- **Is one of the expectations of the cooperative agreement to evaluate the successful functioning of the new national network of resource centers?**

As stated in the NOFO, recipients will identify a shared set of measures/variables to assess overall network outcomes and impact of all focus area recipients. Additionally, per Core Function 5, Evaluation, recipients must develop and implement a plan to monitor and evaluate the select focus area and the network of national centers.

- **Are these cooperative agreements intended to continue or expand upon work already underway? If so, which organizations are currently doing this work?**

Advancing Systems of Services is a new funding opportunity. Previously, MCHB funded three separate national resource and technical assistance centers to establish, support, and ensure state Title V programs and partners were equipped to serve CYSHCN and their families. For a complete listing of the Division of Services for CYSHCN initiatives, please visit the following link, [here](#).