

# Creating an Effective Technical Assistance System to Develop High Quality Early Learning Programs

## **Invitation to Apply!**

The BUILD Initiative's QRIS National Learning Network, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), invite applications from states and territories interested in participating in a technical assistance program focused on "Creating an Effective Technical Assistance System to Develop High Quality Early Learning Programs". The series is a six-part technical assistance program, known as a Learning Table.

**This is a competitive opportunity and limited to approximately 8 states for participation.**

**\* Immediate Response Required –If your state/territory is interested in participating, please click on the link below to submit your application.**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EffectiveTASurvey>**

**The application is due no later than December 3, 2012 at 11 pm (PST).**

States will be notified by January 4, 2013 if they are selected to participate in the Learning Table. See the proposed outline of the curriculum and tentative dates on page two. Additional information about the details of participation will be provided in the coming weeks

### **Questions?**

If you have questions or need further information, contact Debi Mathias, Director of the QRIS NLN, at [dmathias@buildinitiative.org](mailto:dmathias@buildinitiative.org).

## **Learning Table Overview**

State teams will engage in a structured dialogue with national experts and other state teams to assess their current state technical assistance system on four levels (early learning programs, technical assistance professionals, supervisor/sponsoring agencies, and finally the state level). Teams will be supported to create an implementation plan to establish a more effective and efficient technical assistance system that can promote high quality early care and learning programs and achieve better outcomes for children.

## **Format**

This learning table series, from February to May 2013, will include five two-hour, live, interactive web-based sessions and one in-person meeting on February 26-27, 2013. Participants will also have access to an electronic collection of resources related to the Learning Tables' topics. Each web-based session will focus on an individual topic within the broad frame of Effective Technical Assistance and will be designed to be highly interactive with discussion and sharing among participating states. State teams may also receive follow-up technical assistance after each session in order to more directly address individual state needs. States will be asked to select up to eight team members for participation in the learning table and to plan to meet between sessions to discuss homework assignments and application of the information to their state context.

The Learning Table will be facilitated by Billie Young (National Association for the Education of Young Children), Sheila Smith (National Center for Children in Poverty), and Debi Mathias (QRIS National Learning Network/BUILD) with other national experts. The National Center on Child Care Professional Development Systems and Workforce Initiatives & the National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement are supporting the Learning Table as resource persons.

## **In-Person Meeting**

The second Learning Table session will be an in-person meeting on February 26-27, 2013. All other sessions will be live, on-line. For the in-person meeting, BUILD will fund airfare, lodging and some meals for TWO participants from each state. If the state would like to send additional people, they will be responsible for their expenses. Upon notification of your acceptance in the Learning Table, you will be asked to submit the names of the two team members that you would like BUILD to sponsor for participation at the in-person meeting.

## **Team Structure**

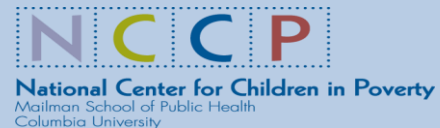
For the web-based sessions, states may include approximately six-eight team members; identifying this team will be part of the application. When creating the team, consider members empowered to engage in analysis of current cross-sector state technical assistance, analyze emerging best practice and innovation in technical assistance and, based on the learning table work, to subsequently recommend and/or implement systems modifications and changes within the state technical assistance system. Team members to consider should include (but not be limited to) leaders who are involved in:

- QRIS administration;
- planning and implementing your state's professional development system;
- your state's training and technical assistance system.

You might also consider including funders, a representative of an early learning program and cross-sector program representatives.

## **Commitment**

- Team members are asked to participate in all web-based sessions in order to make the most of this opportunity. Team members participating in the in-person session would attend both that meeting and all web-based sessions.
- Team members should plan to convene by phone or in-person meetings between sessions to work together on "homework" assignments and to discuss how to apply what they are learning to their own state technical assistance efforts.
- Teams should specify who will be the team liaison for communication and team coordination purposes.



# Learning Table Schedule and Topics

## *Laying the Foundation for Effective State Technical Assistance Systems*

**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2013  
2:00-4:00pm EST on-line

Participants will:

1. Receive overview of topical learning table sessions, meeting premises, and the four-levels of system-building.
2. Examine key child and family outcomes that technical assistance systems should support (drawing from current research on what competencies/capacities children need to succeed) and implications of targeting these outcomes for each level of the system.
3. Explore key findings from research on technical assistance (defined as a component of professional development) and implications for each level of the system.
4. Review historical development of national and state technical assistance initiatives.

## *Mapping Your State's TA System, Setting Goals and Tapping into New Resources*

**Date:** **In-Person Meeting** – Tuesday, February 26, 2013 1:00 pm till Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 1:00 pm

Participants will:

1. Make connections with Learning Table state leaders and identify peer resources.
2. Share the initial state TA map and gain ideas about deepening the technical assistance map across settings, sectors, and funding streams; consider access to and quality of TA and implications for programs, technical assistance providers, intermediaries and systems.
3. Identify indicators of an effective, integrated, cross sector technical assistance system, through consideration of terminology, governance, finance and sustainability.
4. Begin the self-assessment, Policy Advocacy Tool, and establish priorities for continuing the work with the State team.
5. Learn how to use the Technical Assistance Planning Template and follow up with your state teams.

## *Identifying Strategic Policies, Practices and Resources for TA Professionals*

**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013  
2:00 – 4:00 pm EST on-line

Participants will:

1. Share what was learned from the mapping and goal-setting assignment.
2. Identify policy strategies, promising practices and peer state resources in several areas that can strengthen the work of TA Professionals:
  - qualifications, standards, specialized competencies, and credentials
  - career pathways, ongoing support and compensation
  - preparation and ongoing professional development from the TA professional perspective

## *Effective Technical Assistance Organizations & Supervisors*

**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2013  
2:00 – 4:00 pm EST on-line

Participants will:

1. Share goals/action steps related to TA organizations and consider implications for each level of the TA system.
2. Share promising practices for enhancing the effectiveness of technical assistance organizations:
  - Recruiting a diverse team of supervisors
  - Professional development, ongoing support and supervision and supporting across the agency, Individual TA Professional Development Plans
  - Creating peer-to-peer support and Communities of Practice
3. Policies, procedures and implementation protocols within state wide or regional TA system.
4. Creating more choice points for programs and considerations around developing priorities for TA within a state or region

## *Using Data to Build an Effective and Efficient Cross-Sector Technical Assistance System*

**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2013  
2:00 – 4:00 pm EST on-line

Participants will:

1. Identify the types of data needed to support Continuous Quality Improvement for all levels of the system across sectors and for evaluating State technical assistance systems.
2. Share promising practices for collecting and using data
3. Creating data and feedback loops and other management systems.
4. Develop a process to track progress on implementation plan, feedback from stakeholders, review of data and evaluations from all levels including the program, TA provider level, intermediary and at the state level.
5. Identify effective ways to share data with stakeholders
6. Evaluation of Technical assistance

## *Implementing the Technical Assistance System Building Plan: Next Steps*

**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013  
2:00 – 4:00 pm EST on-line

Participants will:

1. Review and analyze Technical Assistance system building plans.
2. Consider and discuss key implementation considerations.
3. Identify next steps.

**Applications due December 3<sup>rd</sup>!!!**

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