

Upcoming **WIC** Opportunity...

Engage families in tracking their children's growth and development with CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early."

This exciting new opportunity to be part of CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." nationwide program will help you...

- ✓ Provide a quick and easy way to monitor a child's early development.
- ✓ Help staff know when and where to refer a child with a possible developmental delay.
- ✓ Help identify, earlier, the one in six children in the U.S with a developmental disability.

About this Opportunity:

ASPHN has been awarded funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support replication of a model to integrate the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." (LTSAE) developmental monitoring program into the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). CDC aims to improve early identification of developmental delays and disabilities, including autism, by facilitating parent-engaged developmental monitoring within programs that serve infants, children and their families, such as WIC.

CDC has worked with the University of Missouri, in close collaboration with WIC staff, to develop, assess, and refine a simple and effective model for integrating LTSAE into WIC clinics across Missouri. This project aims to build the capacity of other states to adapt, adopt, implement and assess the Missouri-tested model into their own WIC clinics statewide. ASPHN will solicit, select and provide technical assistance to states enrolled in the program.

The model includes:

1. Engaging imagery on the walls and floors of the clinic to introduce milestone monitoring in a fun and friendly way;
2. Parents completing milestone checklist while staff complete data entry tasks; and
3. Brief discussion of the completed checklist and referral to the child's healthcare provider and/or early intervention program when concerns are noted.

Promising Results from Missouri WIC's Experience:

- 97% of parents reported learning new information about child development from the program materials.
- WIC staff members indicated this program was easy to implement.
- 80% of WIC staff said the program takes 5 minutes or less.
- 90% of WIC staff said that the program helped them learn when to refer and how to support

- parents.
- Most children who were referred saw their doctors, and they received additional assessment and intervention services when needed.

How to Apply:

The application process will take place in two phases:

- Phase I: This is for any state that is at all interested in this opportunity. By entering phase I, state staff commits to learning the details of this project by attending an informational webinar, reading informational materials, and speaking with ASPHN staff to learn more. Interest forms will be due *December 13, 2018*. An informational webinar will be held the week of *December 17th* and a recording will be made available.
- Phase II: If a state is still interested after phase I, then they would submit a final application for phase II. Only states in phase I are eligible to apply for phase II. The final application will be due *February 1, 2019*.

What will be involved for WIC Programs in this project?

- States will receive seed funding for a two-year period, beginning early 2019, to integrate LTSAE into a few WIC clinics in the state and develop a plan and strategy to implement statewide.
- States will be provided with the necessary resources to implement LTSAE.
- LTSAE WIC Model Program grantees will be linked with other grantees and other experts in LTSAE.
- Each state will receive individualized technical assistance.
- Each state will develop a state plan for the project with ASPHN's guidance and support.
- Group training will be offered monthly that includes topics about LTSAE in general and LTSAE incorporated into WIC clinics and other state systems. Most of this training will take place virtually (webinars or conference calls). There will be one in-person networking session at the National WIC Association Conference in April for those states that are able to attend.

More Information about the “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” Program:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” Website

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/wic-providers.html>

The Missouri WIC Website

<https://health.mo.gov/living/families/wic/wiclwp/wicdevelopmentalmilestonesprogram/>

Contact:

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