

**Multi-System Collaboration Training and Technical Assistance Program
Questions & Answers
September 2016**

The following document outlines responses to frequently asked questions about the Multi-System Collaboration Training and Technical Assistance (MSC-TTA) program. We hope you find this information helpful to your jurisdiction as you prepare to submit your application. Any additional questions can be directed to Sam Abbott via email at sca40@georgetown.edu or by phone at 202-687-7765.

- **Who should apply to the MSC-TTA?**

States, tribes, territories, local governments, and community agencies and organizations that wish to improve outcomes for youth, families, staff and communities, seek to enhance multi-system processes, and are committed to and/or have a history of cross-system collaboration are encouraged to apply. This training and technical assistance program is designed to help jurisdictions develop or enhance their formal infrastructure for cross-system collaboration. Therefore, the MSC-TTA program will benefit jurisdictions that are:

- Demonstrating a commitment to implementing cross-system reforms and operational improvements (i.e., formal collaboration between juvenile justice, child welfare, the courts, school systems, behavioral health, and other partners in serving multi-system youth);
- Looking to achieve substantial improvement in case- and system-level collaboration;
- Expecting to undertake significant efforts around system integration or the merger/splitting of two or more agencies; and/or
- Interested in reinvigorating previous system improvement efforts and/or updating multi-system collaboration protocols devised under previous efforts.

- **On what areas of systems change will the MSC-TTA focus?**

The MSC-TTA is designed to help participating jurisdictions develop the necessary infrastructure to support system improvement efforts and multi-system collaboration. Broadly defined, this infrastructure is composed of three essential elements:

1. An appropriate and engaged leadership team to oversee multi-system efforts;
2. An environment in which each system has thorough knowledge of its partner systems within the community, including clear understanding of the legal,

structural, financial, and cultural constraints that inform each system's actions;
and

3. A robust information- and data-sharing infrastructure to enhance both case-level decision making and population-level policy decisions.

In order to develop this infrastructure, training and technical assistance will be provided on the following of topics:

- Leading a system change process
- Developing system maps and conducting a system-wide gap analysis
- Sharing information across systems
- Empowering and strengthening relationships with youth and families
- Utilizing data to enhance decision making and demonstrate outcomes
- Developing a plan for implementing system change

- **Is there a cost to participating in the MSC-TTA?**

No! With support of OJJDP, the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States is pleased to offer the MSC-TTA at **NO COST** to participants.

- **How will selected jurisdictions benefit from participating in the MSC-TTA?**

Participating jurisdictions will have the benefit of having:

- **FREE** training and technical support to aid jurisdictions in their efforts related to multi-system collaboration;
- A better understanding of the multi-system operations within their jurisdiction;
- Support and clear direction to produce a multi-system strategic plan designed to mitigate and/or improve the identified issues;
- A connection to resources and content experts to assist in mobilizing their efforts; and
- Learning opportunities with other jurisdictions that are undertaking multi-system reform efforts.

- **Will this be the only opportunity to apply for the MSC-TTA?**

This RFA is for the fourth cohort of this program. Each cohort has consisted of up to six sites. While additional programs for new cohorts will be offered in 2017, the area of focus for future programs will vary.

- **What are participating jurisdictions expected to do?**

Participating jurisdictions in the MSC-TTA are expected to:

- **Develop a multi-system team** that consists of leadership (or designees) from local youth-serving agencies. Teams are strongly encouraged, but not required, to include leaders from the site's family court (i.e., the court responsible for handling juvenile dependency and delinquency cases), and child welfare and juvenile justice agencies. Teams are also encouraged to

include key partners and stakeholders in the effort, such as representatives from behavioral health (mental health and substance use), community providers and advocates (e.g., parent and youth advocacy groups), court appointed special advocates, education, guardians ad litem, law enforcement, attorneys (dependency and delinquency), and others relevant to the issue the site chooses to address.

- **Participate in monthly webinars and conference calls** with the MSC-TTA Training Team and other participating jurisdictions. This will be a small learning community that works collaboratively to tackle multi-system issues.
- **Identify a local manager** to serve as a liaison between the jurisdiction and the MSC-TTA Training Team. This manager will be the main point of contact for the MSC-TTA Training Team, with the expectation that he or she will facilitate communication back to the jurisdiction's team.
- **Use the wiki website** to support MSC-TTA activities. The wiki will be the central online location where jurisdictions can download assignments and find resources such as fact sheets, reports, and guides on various topics, a calendar of events, recordings of past webinars, and other useful information. The jurisdiction's team will be expected to contribute and review content on the wiki throughout the program.
- **Complete pre-work and post-webinar assignments.** To maximize the MSC-TTA Training Team's ability to provide customized TTA, each jurisdiction will complete a short assignment prior to each webinar. The information gathered from the assignments will aid the Training Team to structure presentations to meet the specific needs of participating jurisdictions. Following most webinars, jurisdictions will be given assignments that build on local capacity relative to the webinar topic. The assignments will be designed to strengthen collaboration and assist in making gains in jurisdictions' multi-system efforts.

- **Can a county submit an application?**

Yes. However, we highly encourage counties to inform state-level officials about the application (and award, if selected). The purpose of the notification is to maximize the possibility of state-level support for the jurisdiction's efforts and the opportunity to share experiences with other jurisdictions in the state that may be challenged in the same manner.

While state agencies do not have to be a part of the application, the local site team should consider ways to engage the state. The site may devote part of the TTA work plan developed on engaging other partners, like state agencies.

- **What is the application process?**

The application form must be downloaded and submitted on <http://cjr.georgetown.edu/mscttaapplication/> by November 11, 2016, by 11:59 p.m. (in the applicant's local time zone).

The application should be completed in a collaborative manner with input from the site's family court, and child welfare and juvenile justice agencies (by family court we mean the court responsible for handling juvenile dependency and delinquency cases) and as many of the participating agencies as possible. Acceptance notices will be sent out on December 1, 2016.

- **Who will be providing the TTA?**

The MSC-TTA Training Team includes:

- Shay Bilchik
Director
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
McCourt School of Public Policy
Georgetown University
- Macon Stewart
Senior Program Manager
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
McCourt School of Public Policy
Georgetown University
- Michael Umpierre
Senior Research Fellow
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
McCourt School of Public Policy
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- Samuel Abbott
Research Associate
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
McCourt School of Public Policy
Georgetown University
- Elizabeth Barnett
Adjunct Professor
California State University, Long Beach
- Lourdes Rosado
Bureau Chief
Civil Rights Bureau
Office of the Attorney General of New York State

Guest instructors will be featured throughout the period of engagement.