

Multi-System Collaboration Training and Technical Assistance Program

Questions & Answers

Updated: January 2018

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

Who should apply to the MSC-TTA?

Teams representing states, tribes, territories, local governments, and/or 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 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 in topical areas of their choosing. Participating jurisdictions will apply the TTA to a specific initiative, project, or goal of importance to them. Therefore, the MSC-TTA program benefits jurisdictions that:

- Demonstrate a commitment to implementing cross-system improvement 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);
- Seek to achieve substantial improvement in case- and system-level collaboration;
- Expect to undertake significant efforts around system integration or the merger/splitting of two or more agencies; and/or
- Are 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 in topical areas of their choosing. 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 topics:

- Understanding youth systems through mapping and gap analyses
- Essential steps for information sharing across agencies
- Utilizing data to inform cross-system collaboration

- Empowering and strengthening relationships with youth and families
- Implementing and sustaining 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 benefit from having:

- **FREE** training and technical support to assist in their efforts related to multi-system collaboration, including both on-site and distance learning opportunities;
- 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 jurisdiction's identified issues or challenges;
- A connection to resources and content experts to assist in mobilizing their efforts; and
- Learning opportunities with other jurisdictions undertaking multi-system improvement efforts.

Are there any possibilities for in-person training?

Yes! While the majority of the TTA consists of long-distance learning via webinars and conference calls, there will be an opportunity for one on-site training session during the course of the program. Selected jurisdictions will work with the MSC-TTA training team to identify the subject, location, and timing of this in-person meeting. The purpose of this site visit is to support jurisdictions in solidifying their project goals and engaging necessary stakeholders in the systems improvement process.

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 the local youth-serving agencies relevant to a jurisdiction's multi-system goals. Additionally, teams are strongly 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 the 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.
- **Work with the MSC-TTA Training Team to organize and convene the on-site training session.** Teams will work with the MSC-TTA Training Team to identify the subject, location, and timing of the in-person meeting, and to arrange logistics (e.g., securing meeting space, printing materials).
- **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 online platform** to support MSC-TTA activities. The “MSC-TTA 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 complete assignments that seek to enhance local capacity relative to the webinar topic. The assignments are designed to strengthen collaboration and assist in making gains in jurisdictions’ multi-system efforts.

What is the expected time commitment for participating in the MSC-TTA?

The time each team commits to the MSC-TTA and related activities varies upon the size of the team, their multi-system projects or goals, and the content of the current TTA Session. In general, there will be either a webinar or a conference call every two or three weeks. We ask all participants to block off two hours on their calendars for these calls. These times are meant to be generous, and most webinars or conference calls vary from 60-90 minutes. Individual team conference calls are often shorter and range from 30-45 minutes. In total, participants should expect to spend anywhere from three to six hours a months on the webinars and conference calls.

In addition to these formal TTA sessions, teams also complete pre-work and post webinar assignments. The time any individual spends on these assignments depends on both that individual’s role on the team (e.g., local team managers and their designees may spend more time than the rest of the team facilitating the completion of the assignment) and the nature of the assignment. For the average participant, the estimated time committed to these assignments will range from 30 minutes to 2 hours per month.

These times are estimates and do not take into account additional meetings or activities that teams may hold in order to advance the work on their multi-system project or goals.

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 the following website by March 16, 2018 by 11:59 p.m. (in the applicant's local time zone):

<http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/mscttaapplication>

The application should be completed in a collaborative manner with input from the primary agencies and systems that will be leading this effort and as many of the participating agencies as possible. Acceptance notices will be sent out by April 2, 2018.

Who will be providing the TTA?

The Primary MSC-TTA Training Team includes:

Shay Bilchik
Director
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
McCourt School of Public Policy
Georgetown University

Michael Umpierre
Senior Research Fellow
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
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Guest Presenters and Content Experts include:

Lourdes Rosado
Bureau Chief, Civil Rights Bureau
Office of the Attorney General of New York
State

Hernan Carvente
National Youth Partnership Strategist
Youth First Initiative

What if I have more questions?

Please review the [MSC-TTA Website](#) and the complete [Request for Applications](#) for more detail on any aspect of the program. You may also contact Sam Abbott at samuel.abbott@georgetown.edu or 202-687-7765 if you need further assistance.

¹ This list contains guest presenters and content experts from previous cohorts who, while expected, are not guaranteed to participate in Cohort 6. Guest presenters and content experts participate in the MSC-TTA Program based upon need and availability.