



HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences)
Request for Applications (RFA) HOPE Innovation Network

Key Dates and information:

Application deadline	Applications are due by Tuesday, November 15, 2022
Notice of decision	Applicants will be notified of the final determination on or before December 31, 2022
Project start date	HIN will begin in January of 2023
Length of project	6-12 months
Funding for project implementation	\$2,500
Number of awards	8 - 10 organizations
Eligibility	Child, youth, and family-serving organizations that support a diverse range of families – by region, race and ethnicity, family structure, language spoken, sexuality and gender, and socioeconomic status, etc.
RFA informational webinar	October 13, 2022 at 4 PM ET – register to attend This webinar will be recorded and available on-demand.

Executive Summary

Positive experiences can alleviate toxic stress and help children grow into more resilient, healthier adults. HOPE aims to evolve our understanding and support of these key experiences. Research shows that positive experiences promote children’s long-term health and well-being. They allow children to form strong relationships and meaningful connections, cultivate positive self-image and self-worth.

HOPE aims to shift emphasis to consider positive experiences as impacting health outcomes, too, and to recognize that people are defined not only by their challenges but by their strengths as well. The Four Building Blocks of HOPE are composed of key positive childhood experiences (PCEs)—and the sources of those experiences and opportunities— that help children grow into healthy, resilient adults.

The HOPE National Resource Center collaborates with a broad range of people, from the families we help to community organizations, from researchers to policy makers. The strategic actions we take are directed to meet our core objectives: education and practice transformation, advancing research, and community action.

The HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) is a group of child and family-serving organizations in diverse communities that are implementing the HOPE framework through a guided process. HIN participants will be joining the HOPE team in a paradigm shift from deficits-based services to strengths-based supports. Participating in HIN will support your organization's efforts to mitigate the outcomes of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), reduce health inequities, and connect with families in a meaningful way.

I. HIN (HOPE Innovation Network) description

HIN participant organizations will engage in a guided HOPE implementation process over the course of a 6-month period, followed by a 3-month to 6-month evaluation period. The project will begin in January 2023. HIN participant organizations will benefit from the framework that HOPE provides when promoting positive childhood experiences (PCEs) in their daily operations. To partner with community-based external organizations from diverse sectors of child, youth, and family services on a time-limited basis to spread HOPE and to promote shared learning about HOPE implementation across the country.

Purpose: The HIN project will focus on pilot testing the new HOPE organizational certification process. The HOPE National Resource Center will guide the HIN participants step-by-step to conduct an organizational assessment, review the findings, and create a more HOPE-informed organization in each of the four key areas: family strengths and resiliency, anti-racist and culturally resonant care, HOPE building blocks, and continuous learning and improvement. Although this is a pilot, your organization will obtain HOPE certification.

Goals of spreading HOPE through HIN:

- Support organizations in their shift from deficits-based to strengths-based services
- Training and technical assistance from the HOPE National Resource Center
- Observe how HOPE works in a variety of child-serving systems and organizations
- Establish a growing network of organizations using HOPE

Benefits of participation:

- Fee waiver for full access to the HOPE learning management system
- Fee waiver to register for HOPE trainings that offer CEUs
- Continued technical assistance from the HOPE National Resource Center after the project ends
- Reduced fees (50% off) for the Train-the-Facilitator program including certification

II. Roles and responsibilities

The success of HIN depends on the commitment and engagement of participating HIN organizations.

HIN participants will be expected to:

- Identify multiple agency stakeholders (including a parent and/or youth participant in the agency's services)
- Attend bi-weekly meetings
- Provide feedback on HOPE materials and trainings
- Engage with other HIN participants
- Interact with members of the HOPE Family and Community Experts (FACEs) Advisory Council and/or the HOPE National Advisory Board as equal partners

HIN participants will have access to the training, resources, and support needed to be successful in their HOPE certification process.

HIN participants can expect the HOPE National Resource Center to:

- Provide training on the HOPE framework and the components of HOPE implementation
- Connect HIN organizations to each other through structured peer-to-peer mentorship
- Offer resources that HIN organizations can use to communicate with the community, staff, and families about HOPE including optional translations to languages of interest
- Provide co-branding materials as requested by HIN participants
- Provide ongoing support and guidance throughout the project period
- Inform HIN participants of any significant HOPE updates such as new research or the HOPE Annual Summit

III. Eligibility information

Organizations that support or serve children, youth, and families are eligible to apply. Examples of potential applicants include: out-of-school programs, pediatric practices, and early childhood education providers. Additionally, organizations that support or serve diverse families are encouraged to apply.

IV. Funding for HOPE implementation

HOPE will provide funding to HIN participating organizations for the implementation of HOPE and completion of the 6-12 month project. These funds can be used at the agency's discretion to allow for staff time spent on HIN participation and HOPE implementation, to stipend a parent's participation, etc.

V. Application and submission information

All applications must be submitted by November 15, 2022 at 5:00 PM PT. Applications submitted after this time will not be considered. Applicants must submit their applications using the [electronic application form](#).

Here is a list of resources that may help you to complete the application.

- ✓ HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) [website](#)

- ✓ [Transforming Practice with HOPE \(Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences\)](#) (D Burstein, C Yang, K Johnson, J Linkenbach, R Sege, 2021).

This paper describes the growing evidence that supports the health effects of positive childhood experiences, and uses these insights to promote HOPE: a paradigm shift that will incorporate the identification, celebration, and support of PCEs as an integral part of caring for children and families.

- ✓ [The HOPE Innovation Network](#), a presentation by Judy Langford at the First Annual HOPE Summit.

Launched in January 2021, the HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) consists of representatives from a variety of organizations at the forefront of incorporating HOPE into their work. Current status, lessons learned, and plans for the future were discussed. [The HOPE Innovation Network materials packet](#).

Please direct any questions or technical issues to Allison Stephens, PhD, Director of Networks and Policy via email at astephens1@tuftsmedicalcenter.org.

VI. Review process and notice

Each complete application that is submitted by the deadline will be reviewed. The review team will include both HOPE staff and previous HIN participants. Selection decisions will be made with consideration for the diversity of the cohort with regard to region of the country and demographics of families served, with a total of 8 - 10 participants. Applicants will be notified of a final decision on or before December 31, 2022.

Application evaluation:

The review committee will use the following criteria to evaluate applications.

1. Knowledge of HOPE and commitment to implementation
2. Relevant organization type
3. Readiness of the organization to become HOPE-informed
4. Contribution to diversity of overall HIN cohort (demographics of children and families served, geography, urban/suburban/rural, program type, etc.)
5. Actively prioritizing anti-racism within organization and in the way that services are provided

The HOPE National Resource Center welcomes applications from previous HOPE Innovation Network organization participants and HOPE Ambassadors.

VII. Protection of Human Subjects Regulations

The HOPE National Resource Center is applying for an IRB determination letter. If other needs, such as a parent survey, arise during the course of the HIN project, the HOPE National Resource Center will submit the appropriate application to IRB at that time.