



## Request for Applications (RFA): HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) Project

### Key Dates and Information

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Application Deadline      | Applications are due by Friday May 16, 2025 at 5:00pm ET.   |
| Notice of Award           | Applicants will be notified of awards on or before May 30, 2025.  |
| Project Period            | 6 months; July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025  |
| Number of Awards          | Up to ten (10) organizations  |
| Award Amount              | \$2,000 per organization  |
| Eligibility               | Organizations from any sector that are currently implementing HOPE or are ready to begin HOPE implementation as part of this project. |
| RFA Informational Webinar | Monday April 14, 2025 at 2pm ET<br>This webinar will be recorded and available on-demand  |

### Executive Summary

The Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences National Resource Center (HOPE NRC) is launching the **2025 HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) Project!** This six-month project seeks to better understand how organizations adapt and adopt the Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE) framework to meet their needs and workflows, which components of HOPE implementation make the greatest difference and how organizations can embed the framework in ways that lead to measurable improvements for staff, families, and communities. The project will support up to ten (10) organizations that are either currently implementing HOPE or are ready to begin doing so.

**Awarded organizations will attend a kick-off meeting, participate in five (5) monthly, 2-hour virtual learning sessions, pilot an evaluation strategy, and share insights about their experience implementing HOPE.** Each will identify a dedicated individual to complete HOPE Champion training, attend the monthly learning sessions, and lead evaluation and implementation activities within the selected organization. Selected organizations will receive \$2,000 to support their participation in a structured learning experience that includes training, technical assistance, and peer exchange.

The project period is from July 1 to December 31, 2025. Applications are due by Friday, May 16, 2025, at 5:00pm ET.

## Why Participate?

Participation in the HIN Project offers organizations a unique opportunity to:

- Deepen their HOPE implementation with access to in-depth technical assistance;
- Join a cohort of peer organizations for shared learning and collaboration;
- Pilot a HOPE-aligned evaluation strategy to better understand what's working and where to grow;
- Fulfill all requirements to become a certified HOPE Champion at no cost, with recognition from the HOPE NRC; and
- Get a head start in your organization's journey to complete the [HOPE-Informed Organizational Certification](#) program.

## About Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE)

The HOPE framework highlights the critical role positive childhood experiences (PCEs) play in lifelong health and well-being. Research shows that safe, stable, and nurturing experiences can promote resilience and help children grow into thriving adults. HOPE shifts the focus from solely addressing adversity to actively fostering these positive experiences within families, organizations, and communities. At the core of the HOPE framework are the [Four Building Blocks of HOPE](#) – Relationships, Environment, Engagement, and Emotional Growth – which provide a foundation for helping children and families flourish.

The [HOPE National Resource Center](#) (HOPE NRC) partners with organizations to embed these Building Blocks into practices, policies, and culture and create strengths-based, equitable systems that support well-being for all. The HOPE NRC provides training, technical assistance, research translation, and policy guidance to organizations and communities, helping professionals integrate HOPE into their work and ensuring that all children have access to the positive experiences that support lifelong well-being.

The HOPE NRC is currently gathering data through surveys, listening sessions, and key informant interviews to better understand how organizations are putting HOPE into practice in their unique settings and how they are currently evaluating the impact of HOPE. As this work continues, it will be important to create practical, community-informed guidance that helps organizations implement HOPE in ways that lead to measurable change for staff, families, and systems. It will also be important to develop pathways to collect the data needed to measure that change.

## Overview

**HOPE NRC is pleased to announce its call for applications for the 2025 HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) Project.** This project will support up to ten (10) organizations who are either currently implementing the HOPE framework or are ready to begin implementation as part of the HIN Project. Each organization will receive \$2,000 to support their involvement in a six-month, structured experience that includes HOPE Champion training, technical assistance, peer learning opportunities, and the piloting of an evaluation strategy. The goal of this project is to inform HOPE NRC's evaluation strategy and the development of guidance for HOPE implementation that leads to measurable change.

Organizations will pilot an evaluation strategy intended for internal quality improvement and to measure the impact of HOPE implementation on community access to PCEs, provider/family relationships, and staff outcomes. Organizations newer to HOPE implementation will select a focus area for implementation and begin their evaluation work with baseline measures. HOPE NRC will lead discussions with organizations to inform the development of implementation guidance that supports effective and scalable HOPE implementation.

All organizations must identify one consistent individual to receive HOPE Champion training and serve as their primary participant in the HIN cohort. The HIN HOPE Champion will complete pre-project online modules and attend all monthly learning sessions. This individual must have completed the [HOPE Train-the-Facilitator certification](#)<sup>1</sup> by July 1 and must be either a staff member or a community partner of the applying organization.

This project will begin on July 1, 2025 and end on December 31, 2025. **Applications must be submitted by using the [electronic application form](#) no later than Friday, May 16, 2025 at 5:00pm ET.** Applications submitted after this time will not be considered.

HOPE NRC invites interested applicants to participate in an informational webinar on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00pm-3:00pm ET. Register [here](#). The webinar will be recorded and available after the webinar has concluded. Participants are encouraged to come with any questions they may have regarding this opportunity. No new information will be shared during the webinar, and applicants do not need to wait for this optional webinar to begin or submit applications. Applicants may pose individual questions to HOPE NRC at any point during the application process by emailing Amie Myrick at [amie.myrick@tuftsmedicine.org](mailto:amie.myrick@tuftsmedicine.org) with the subject line “HIN RFP Question”.

### HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) Description

HOPE NRC seeks up to ten (10) organizations who have implemented HOPE or are ready to begin implementing the HOPE framework in at least one of the following core areas:

- **Staff Training:** Embedding HOPE theory, research, and practice into staff development activities;
- **Internal Culture:** Aligning leadership, decision-making, and work culture with HOPE;
- **Forms & Policies:** Applying HOPEful principles in organizational documents and policies;
- **Physical & Virtual Environment** Creating HOPE-aligned spaces and experiences; and
- **Funding Priorities:** Developing funding opportunities that integrate HOPEful principles.

Participating organizations will engage in a guided process over the course of a six-month period, beginning in July 2025. HIN participants will receive training, technical assistance, and peer support as they engage in HOPE framework implementation and pilot an evaluation strategy intended for internal quality improvement (QI) of HOPE implementation.

This year’s project will help inform the development of HOPE implementation and evaluation guidance. Through participation, organizations will contribute to the identification of key elements that support measurable change, including which components matter most, how implementation

---

<sup>1</sup> Individuals may already be trained HOPE facilitators or must be able to complete one of the public Train-the-Facilitator cohorts offered in May or June 2025. Upcoming training sessions, including cohort dates and registration cost can be found on the [HOPE Train-the-Facilitator Certification](#) page.

may vary across sectors, and what may be necessary to observe meaningful impact for staff and families.

Organizations at different stages of HOPE implementation are welcome to apply.

- **New implementers** will identify an initial implementation area as part of their application and begin early implementation work during the first phase of the project. These organizations will have the opportunity to begin collecting baseline and early data using the evaluation tools provided.
- **Organizations already implementing HOPE** will pilot and provide feedback on a comprehensive evaluation strategy to assess clarity, feasibility, and alignment with their existing work.

All participating organizations will identify one staff member to serve as their **HIN HOPE Champion**. This person must be a HOPE Facilitator or complete the Train-the-Facilitator program by July 1, 2025. They will serve as a consistent point of contact between the organization and the HOPE NRC, attend all HIN sessions, complete online modules, and support their organization in its completion of project activities and implementation of one of the HOPE core areas. Over the course of this project, these individuals will fulfill all requirements to be a [HOPE Champion](#) at no additional cost<sup>2</sup>.

## Eligibility

This opportunity is open to organizations that are either:

- **Currently implementing HOPE** in at least one of the core areas: staff training, internal culture, forms and policies, physical and/or virtual environment, or funding priorities; **or**
- **Ready to begin HOPE implementation** as part of this project.

Organizations may come from any sector (e.g., health, education, child and family services, justice) and may vary in size, structure, and population served. Previous HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) participants and organizations who are current or past participants in the HOPE Organizational Certification Program are also eligible to apply.

To be eligible, each organization must:

- Identify an individual to become a HIN HOPE Champion who will participate in all HIN activities and lead the organization's participation in the project;
- Ensure that the HIN HOPE Champion is already a HOPE Facilitator or completes the HOPE Train-the-Facilitator program by June 30, 2025;
- Attend the project kick-off call.
- Attend five (5), monthly, 2-hour virtual meetings.
- Commit to completing approximately 5–10 hours per month of related activities; and
- Be willing to engage with evaluation tools provided, sign a data sharing agreement to share the data collected, and provide feedback about their implementation experience.

---

<sup>2</sup> For organizations who may already have a HOPE Champion, this is an opportunity for an additional individual to complete the certification in addition to being the primary point of contact in the HIN cohort.

- Provide a letter of support from a senior leader that confirms the organization’s commitment to participating in the HIN Project and support for the designated HIN HOPE Champion.

## Project Goals and Responsibilities

The HOPE NRC will serve as technical assistance providers for HIN. This includes:

- Providing training and technical assistance relevant to implementation evaluation
- Connecting HIN organizations to one another through structured peer-to-peer and shared learning opportunities; and
- Offering resources that HIN organizations can use to communicate with the community, staff, and families about HOPE.

During the project, HIN participants will participate in the following:

- **Complete Pre-Project Online Modules** – The individual identified as the HIN HOPE Champion will complete Champion online modules prior to the July kickoff call. These modules are self-paced and typically take 2-3 hours to complete. *If this individual is not already a certified HOPE Facilitator, they will also need to complete this training by July 1.*
- **Attend Kick-Off Call** – Organizations will attend a kickoff call on Wednesday, July 2, 2025 from 1:00 – 2:00pm ET with HOPE NRC to meet other selected organizations and review project goals.
- **Participate in Virtual Learning Sessions** – Organizations will participate in five (5) virtual, 2-hour learning opportunities on the first Tuesday of each month at 12:00pm ET (8/5, 9/2, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2). At minimum, the HIN HOPE Champion must attend each of these, but other organizational staff are encouraged to attend. Sessions will include implementation planning, facilitated discussions, peer learning, evaluation support, and access to new research and resources.
- **Contribute to the Development of Implementation Guidance** - Organizations will provide feedback on what is working, what is feasible, and what elements of HOPE seem most impactful in their setting. The experiences and insights shared through the HIN Project will directly inform future tools to support meaningful and measurable HOPE implementation.
- **Engage in Evaluation Activities** – Organizations will pilot a comprehensive evaluation strategy that seeks to understand the impact of HOPE on staff, client, and organization outcomes. The evaluation strategy used in this project will be intended for internal quality improvement<sup>3</sup>. As a part of this project, organizations will be asked to implement the strategy and report on the clarity, feasibility, and overall experience of incorporating it into HOPE implementation efforts. New implementers will collect baseline and early data using the evaluation tools provided. Current implementers will pilot the HOPE evaluation strategy to collect data on staff, client, and system outcomes.

---

<sup>3</sup> If an organization wishes to publish findings or use data for research, internal review procedures (e.g., IRB) may be required.

- **Complete End-of-Project Evaluation** – Towards the end of the project, organizations will complete a brief evaluation to provide feedback on technical assistance received and their overall experience in the HIN cohort to help inform future project design.

## Timeline and Deliverables

| Scope of Work Activity                                   | Associated Deliverables  | Estimated Timelines         | Participants Needed   |
|--|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Pre-Session Online Modules                               | Module Completion in Learning Management System                          | June 2025                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HIN HOPE Champion</li> </ul>   |
| Kick-Off Call  | Attendance Sheet   | July 2025                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HIN HOPE Champion</li> <li>At least one additional person from the organization</li> </ul>   |
| Virtual Learning Sessions                                | Attendance Sheet<br>HOPE Champion Certificate                            | August 2025 – December 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HIN HOPE Champion</li> <li>(Optional) Additional people from the organization</li> </ul>   |
| Contribute to the Development of Implementation Guidance | Monthly Worksheets on Draft Materials                                    | August 2025 – December 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HIN HOPE Champion</li> <li>(Optional) Additional people from the organization</li> </ul>   |
| Engage in Evaluation Activities                          | Signed Data Agreement<br>Monthly Feedback Sheets<br>Monthly Data Uploads | July 2025 – December 2025   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HIN HOPE Champion</li> <li>Individuals from the organization who are collecting data (Evaluation Implementation Team)</li> </ul>                     |
| Complete End-of-Project Evaluation                       | Completed Evaluation   | December 2025               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HIN HOPE Champion</li> <li>(Optional) Additional people from the organization who can assist in the Champion in completing the evaluation</li> </ul> |

## Award Details

Each organization will receive a \$2,000 stipend upon successful completion of all project activities, including participation in learning sessions, evaluation activities, and the final project reflection. The registration fee for [HOPE Train-the-Champion Certification](#) will be waived for all organizations' identified HIN HOPE Champion .

## Application Process

Please provide the following information using the [electronic application form](#):

### Organization Information

- Organization Name and Primary Contact Information
- Description of Organization, including the Mission Statement. *(maximum 250 words)*
- Please describe the individuals served by your organization. *(maximum 300 words)*
- Is your organization currently implementing HOPE?
  - Yes
  - No, but we are ready to begin as part of this project.

### HOPE Implementation

- If you answered yes (**you are already implementing HOPE**), which core areas are you currently focusing on? *Check all that apply:*
  - Staff Training
  - Internal Culture
  - Forms & Policies
  - Physical & Virtual Environment
  - Funding Priorities
  - Other
  - I answered no
- If you answered no (**you are not currently implementing HOPE**), which core area would you plan to focus on during this project?
  - Staff Training
  - Internal Culture
  - Forms & Policies
  - Physical & Virtual Environment
  - Funding Priorities
  - Other
  - I answered yes
- If you are not currently implementing HOPE, please describe some of the ideas you have for implementation in the core area you have chosen. If you are currently implementing HOPE, write "N/A". *(maximum 250 words)*
- Describe a specific example of how HOPE has influenced your organization's work so far. *(maximum 250 words)*

### Evaluation Efforts



- What data (if any) does your organization currently collect related to HOPE or related efforts (e.g., employee engagement, participant satisfaction, trauma-informed care, strengths-based practice)? (*maximum 300 words*)
- Are there specific challenges you face in evaluating HOPE's impact in your setting? (*maximum 250 words*)
- **If you are assessing the impact of HOPE implementation**, what methods or tools are you using (e.g., survey, existing metrics, interviews)? What have you learned so far? (*maximum 250 words*)
- **If you are not assessing the impact of HOPE implementation**, what has contributed to your decision (e.g., lack of tools, time, clarity, staff readiness)? (*maximum 250 words*)

#### *Commitment to Project Activities*

- Name, title, and contact information for the individual who will serve as your organization's HIN HOPE Champion.
- Has this individual completed the HOPE Train-The-Facilitator program?
  - Yes
  - No, but this individual will complete the program by July 1, 2025.
  - Unsure
- Can your Champion and at least one additional person from the organization attend the Kick-Off call on July 2, 2025 at 1:00pm ET?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
- Can your Champion commit to attending all five learning sessions (8/5, 9/2, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2 at 12:00pm ET)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
- Can your organization commit to piloting the HOPE evaluation strategy (approximately 5-10 hours per month)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
- Is your organization willing to sign a data agreement and share the data you collect while piloting the evaluation strategy?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure

#### *Interest in the Project and Contribution to Cohort*

- What unique perspective, experience, or expertise would your organization bring to the HIN cohort? (*maximum 250 words*)
- What do you hope to gain from participating in the HIN Project? (*maximum 250 words*)
- Please share anything else you'd like us to know about your organization or your interest in this opportunity. (*maximum 200 words*)

### *Letter of Support*

- Please upload a brief letter of support from a senior leader (e.g., CEO, Executive Director). This letter should confirm the organization's commitment to participating in the HIN Project and support for the designated HIN HOPE Champion.

### **Application Selection Criteria**

Each application will be evaluated by HOPE NRC staff based on the following criteria to ensure alignment with the HIN Project's goals and priorities. A scoring rubric based on the criteria below will be used to assess applications. The selection process will also prioritize diversity of cohort representation across different types of organizations, geographic locations, and communities served. Up to ten (10) organizations will be selected, with award notifications sent on or before May 30, 2025.

#### *Organizational Readiness & Commitment (35%)*

- Clearly articulates how HOPE has influenced their work so far.
- Identifies a committed individual to be a HIN HOPE Champion with time and support to engage in the HIN Project.
- Has staff capacity to dedicate time to project-related activities.
- Demonstrates internal capacity and leadership support to participate.

#### *Evaluation Experience & Learning Goals (35%)*

- **If currently collecting data:** Clearly describes what data is being collected and how it informs HOPE implementation.
- **If not currently collecting data:** Demonstrates an interest in learning how to assess HOPE's impact and a willingness to test evaluation strategies.
- Demonstrates interest in using data to inform and improve practice.
- Expresses willingness to try new evaluation tools and offer feedback.

#### *Contribution to the Cohort (30%)*

- Identifies a unique perspective, expertise, or experience that would benefit the HIN learning community.
- Demonstrates an ability to share insights, experiences, and lessons learned with the cohort.
- Expresses a collaborative mindset and commitment to peer learning.