

ENGAGING PEDIATRICIANS & STATE PARTNERS

PEDIATRICIAN/PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER PARTICIPATION

Healthy Tomorrows proposals must demonstrate **active** pediatrician/pediatric primary care provider involvement in their programs. This participation is a significant part of the broad array of health care professionals involved in your project. Pediatricians and other pediatric primary care providers (family physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants) play a central role in the provision of a medical home and may offer medical guidance to projects. Many applicants are already partnering with one or more pediatricians and pediatric primary care providers and sometimes the applicant is a pediatrician. This partnership offers many benefits to the planning and implementation of the project. If you do not currently have a pediatrician/pediatric primary care provider as an active member of your planning team, the following points may be helpful in working through the process of enlisting pediatrician participation. These suggestions may also be helpful in further developing the role of a pediatrician or pediatric primary care provider in your project or recruiting additional pediatricians or pediatric primary care providers.

1. Request input from a pediatrician/pediatric primary care provider early in the project planning stage.

Healthy Tomorrows grantees stress the importance of pediatrician/pediatric primary care provider involvement in the early stages of project planning, especially when writing the grant proposal. If you are having trouble identifying a pediatrician(s) to partner with, the AAP chapter president in your area, your local chapter CATCH facilitator, or Healthy Tomorrows staff can help identify local pediatricians who can work with you.

2. Work with the pediatrician(s)/pediatric primary care provider(s) to determine the type of assistance you would like from them involved in your project.

In some projects pediatricians and pediatric primary care providers serve as project directors, while in others they serve as advisors or providers of services. Pediatricians/pediatric primary care providers have an important role to play in these projects as well. Because pediatricians/pediatric primary care providers serve a central role in providing care within a medical home, it is essential they are included in the development and implementation of programs that improve the lives of their patient population. For more information about the medical home concept, visit the [National Center for Medical Home Implementation](#).

Pediatricians/pediatric primary care providers have varying levels of availability and expertise depending upon their training, work experience, and individual skills. Pediatricians/pediatric primary care providers can participate in many of the following activities:

- ✓ Assist in the development of the grant application
- ✓ Serve as an advisory board member
- ✓ Supervise the pediatric health care delivered by those other than pediatricians
- ✓ Provide primary health services for children
- ✓ Serve as an advisor to project planning and implementation
- ✓ Serve as the main contact (or medical home) for children with special health care needs who see more than one clinician
- ✓ Review parent education programs or materials
- ✓ Train volunteers or health professionals
- ✓ Present information to funders or community groups regarding the importance of the project

- ✓ Provide program evaluation guidance or expertise

3. Identify and contact your Chapter CATCH Facilitator.

The Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Program at the AAP is based on the concept that local child health problems can be solved locally, using local resources. Pediatricians frequently are in a position to assist their communities in addressing such issues. To that end, the CATCH Program provides technical assistance (TA) in the key skills necessary to develop and implement a community-based child health initiative, including community assessment, developing resources, motivating colleagues and community, coalition building and program evaluation. Each AAP Chapter has designated at least one member to serve as a Chapter CATCH Facilitator. These individuals support community-based programs at the local level by providing their fellow pediatricians with guidance and encouragement. To find the Chapter CATCH Facilitator (s) in your state download the [Chapter CATCH Facilitator roster](#).

4. Replicate models of pediatrician participation from past projects.

The AAP has worked with several Healthy Tomorrows projects that have found creative ways to secure the involvement of local pediatricians in Healthy Tomorrows projects. You can search the [AAP Grants Database](#) for ideas on pediatrician participation. The following are examples of pediatrician involvement in past Healthy Tomorrows projects:

- Project staff working on a project in a rural area created a list of high-risk pediatric patients and asked each pediatrician to choose one patient to work with.
- A project needed a local community pediatrician to serve as the primary care medical home for their project patients. They identified a pediatrician with an interest in the project's health topic area, mental health, by contacting their local AAP Chapter. Connecting with the AAP chapter paved the way for the project to be featured in the statewide chapter newsletter, present their program at a chapter meeting and become part of the statewide mental health network.
- Another project asked each pediatrician to volunteer his or her services for 1 evening a week. The clinic was then able to provide care for an additional 15 patients per week, and each pediatrician only had to volunteer 1 evening every 2 months.
- An oral health project conducted oral health assessments in the school setting. They wanted to increase their capacity to identify children with oral health issues. They contacted several pediatrician offices in their community to describe their program's benefits and offered to do on-site oral health trainings in each office in an effort to increase the number of oral health issues identified during primary care visits. Several offices implemented the program and referred children for oral health treatment using a resource list provided by the Healthy Tomorrows project.

CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT

The AAP has [59 AAP chapters](#) in the United States. Your local AAP Chapter can be an excellent resource for your Healthy Tomorrows project. It is important that project staff connect with the chapter in the planning process. Your chapter may already be engaging in activities related to your project's health topic, or they may want to initiate a new program and are looking for partners. To find out about activities of your chapter, view that [chapter's fact sheet](#).

Below is a list of ideas for working with your chapter:

- ✓ Inform the chapter of your intent to submit a proposal, and ask your AAP chapter to write a letter of support to include in your grant proposal. The strongest applications clearly demonstrate chapter involvement and commitment to working with your project.
- ✓ If you have not yet partnered with pediatricians in your area, contact your local chapter for assistance in identifying pediatricians in your community.
- ✓ Invite a chapter officer or chapter representative to be involved in the proposal planning process and/or serve on your project advisory board.
- ✓ Provide project updates to the chapter, especially when new activities are being implemented.
- ✓ Send your chapter reports of project outcomes and evaluation results.
- ✓ Submit an article about your project to the chapter newsletter.
- ✓ Offer to present your project during a chapter meeting.
- ✓ Encourage a chapter representative to attend your Healthy Tomorrows Technical Assistance visit, if you become a grantee.

STATE TITLE V INVOLVEMENT

The Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant is the nation's oldest federal-state partnership focused on assuring the health of women, children and adolescents, including children and youth with special health care needs and their families. Partnering with your Title V agency is important to further the goals and objectives of your project. Title V Directors have a strong understanding of children's health needs because they conduct statewide, comprehensive needs assessments. To find your Title V program, visit the [MCHB web site](#).

Below is a list of ideas for working with your State title V:

- ✓ Inform your Title V agency of your intent to submit a proposal, and ask your Title V Director to write a letter of support to include in your grant proposal. The strongest applications clearly demonstrate Title V involvement and commitment to working with your project.
- ✓ Invite the Title V Director to be involved in the proposal planning process and/or serve on your project Advisory Board.
- ✓ Contact your State Title V agency to foster linkages between the project and other health initiatives at the local, state, and national levels.
- ✓ Provide project data and information to Title V on an annual basis.
- ✓ Partner with Title V to serve as a resource to families in areas such as preventive health services, screening, care coordination, Medicaid/CHIP eligibility, and the transition from pediatric to adult services for youth with special health needs.
- ✓ Work with Title V to explore reimbursement options for health services not covered by public or private insurance. Payment for health care services varies by state.