



Culture Connections

Good afternoon:

We would like to introduce you to Family Connections Cultural Competency (CC) Learning Collaborative for Opioid Treatment Providers (OTPs). Our goal is that engagement in the Culture Connections OTP Learning Collaborative will lead to a measurable increase and improvement in Black and African American client recruitment, engagement, and retention in OUD and MOUD treatment; and the completion of an updated cultural competence strategic plan that is SMART and leads to organizational success.

The increase in opioid usage and overdoses, particularly in the Black and African American communities, as well as the continued systemic barriers faced by this population that thwart equitable treatment, participation in treatment, and improved recovery rates has justified more in-depth work to push not only compliance but full commitment and execution of cultural competence at every level of provider organizations to sustain true equitable services and successful client outcomes.

In collaboration with DMHAS (Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services) and Family Connections, this collaborative has been developed with OTP, OUD/MOUD, Mental Health, Cultural Competence and Research experts to work toward meeting that need.

Collectively, these expert consultants have over 50 years' experience supporting equity projects in behavioral health and substance use treatment. Family Connections' commitment to striving toward cultural proficiency has been long-standing, with its own cultural competence journey for 20 years, which aligns with SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standards) launch.

Culture Connections, a Family Connections program, has been supporting agencies across New Jersey in training and technical assistance around cultural competence policies and practices to support better client outcomes for 10 years. This expansion program has been the product of all those successful efforts.

This learning collaborative is a minimum a six-month commitment with one to two curriculum training days (10 total courses) for agency staff all levels at most twice monthly and anywhere from two to four technical assistance meetings with leadership (both individual and collaborative), depending on the agency need. It will include data sharing to promote outcome success and standardization of measures (and eventually care) for all programs that participate.

A pilot version will consist of 2 courses and two technical assistance meetings with leadership in a two-month period. Coaching from the team for agencies will be ongoing, via teleconference and team meetings as needed. Delivery of courses and technical assistance meetings is primarily in person, with coaches traveling to either the organization's site or a local training facility. Virtual considerations can be made in limited circumstances and will be discussed in the initial assessment period. Once pilot completed,



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All efforts will focus on improving racial equity in service delivery via CLAS Standards and TIP 59 adherence, assessment strategy, workforce diversity and cross racial relations, anti-racism, strategic partnership and engagement, multicultural supervision, organizational planning, task force development, and culturally competent treatment modalities. Training and technical assistance will occur in three tracks: all organizational staff, leadership, and counselor. Assessments will be conducted prior to joining the collaborative, throughout, and at the conclusion of participation to evaluate progress. Follow ups of periods no less than 6 months and including up to one year will be conducted to measure ongoing efforts, sustainability, success and challenges.

Completing an application is considered interest and perceived commitment (not necessarily admission) to the collaborative. Any agency that is not admitted to the pilot/first cohort is welcome to continue to apply for a future cohort and can also take advantage of technical assistance and training offered by Culture Connections in our original programming at any time. Please visit familyconnectionsny.org/cultureconnections for more information.

This application is split into four sections: 1) Contact information for your organization; 2) Service provision information; 3) A description of your organization and who you serve; and 4) Readiness & interest for participation in the Learning Collaborative. Family Connections staff will review all applications for eligibility.

The deadline for application submissions is February 2, 2024.

Applicants will be informed if they have been accepted within two weeks of the application submission date. In that period, agencies will be contacted for additional information if needed to support decisions. If you have any questions about the application or the Learning Collaborative, please email Carline Azor, Program Manager, Culture Connections, at cazor@familyconnectionsny.org

Below is the link to the application.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7334992/Learning-Collaborative-Application>

Warmest Regards,

K Moulton

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