



California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions

“Community Defined Practices Capacity Building Project”

The California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (formerly California Institute for Mental Health) is launching the Community Defined Practices Capacity Building project. This is a technical assistance program for Community Based Organizations (CBOs) interested in obtaining assistance advancing their Community Defined Practices (CDPs). For the purposes of this project, we are defining CDPs as practices that are derived from the traditional practices of a particular racial, ethnic, and cultural community and have been determined effective by the community. These are “bottom-up” practices that arise out of a specific cultural community, based on the community’s ideas of illness and healing, and that target members of that community. They are not “top-down” practices that are developed in an academic setting, based on universal principles, and meant to be applied to a broad range of target populations. Nor are they standard clinical practices learned by clinicians of color in professional training programs, applied with cultural sensitivity in agencies serving ethnically diverse clients.

CIBHS will provide tailored technical assistance and training to CBOs that implement or have introduced community-defined mental health and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and support practices to specific un-served and underserved communities. Technical assistance will be provided in three areas, based on each agency’s need. These technical assistance areas help build capacity for agencies as program developers, which is different than the capacity they need to be service providers. The areas are: (1) articulating the model and theory of change, (2) building evidence of effectiveness for the practice, and (3) developing a training protocol so other agencies can implement the practice.

Project Objectives:

Increase capacity of Community Based Organizations to:

- Articulate their practice model and theory of change to potential funders
- Present the evidence of effectiveness for their practice to potential funders and implementers
- Train others in the practice so it can be implemented in additional communities with a similar target population

Project Activities:

- Introduction Webinar
- Assessment of strengths and goals
- Webinar series on technical assistance areas
- Specialized trainings

Benefits of Project Participation:

- Customized technical assistance
- Shared learning with peers
- Assistance in shift from service provider to practice developer/implementer/trainer

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