Innovation Hubs (TPP23 Tier 2)

Expectations

Introduction

This document provides a deep dive into each of the expectations of this grant program. It has been updated to align with the OASH Program Policy Notice 2025-01 released on July 1, 2025.

Expectation	Overview
1. **Execute a Clear Vision to Inspire Breakthrough in Preventing Teen Pregnancy**	• Demonstrate a clear, enthusiastic, and compelling vision for why and how the Innovation Hub will address existing or emergent needs in teen pregnancy through the development of innovative approaches that will make positive advances in teen pregnancy prevention. • Define core values in line with NOFO expectations (p.11-18) and a values-centric **Vision Statement** that enables the Innovation Hub to foster innovation and advance meaningful breakthroughs in preventing teen pregnancy and associated risk factors, and continuously communicate these values internally and externally (see Expectation 4). • Establish a **Logic Model** (see Innovation Strategy Part I), or a similar graphic illustration, charting the relationship between project's resources, activities, and its intended outputs/outcomes in service of its vision. • Embrace failure, foster collaboration, and uphold creative risk taking within Hub while maintaining transparency and open communication with internal and external stakeholders. Promote participation from all stakeholders and embed participatory co-design methods as core components of all innovation stages. • Demonstrate an environmental understanding through a living **Stakeholder Map** (see Innovation Strategy Part I) to include past and present OPA-funded grant projects, the TPP Evidence Review (TPPER), and the broader teen pregnancy prevention fields. • Establish partnerships and feedback loops with the field – including other OPA-funded recipients – to ensure that innovations align with existing or emergent needs in teen pregnancy prevention and positive youth development.
2. **Implement Theory-Driven Incubator and/or Accelerator Structure to**	• Develop and execute, with OPA approval, an **Innovation Strategy**, which incorporates all necessary elements specific to the Incubator / Accelerator / Hybrid model to include: theoretical grounding and methods, cohort timelines, process visual, definition of success, overview of Innovation Development

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Facilitate Team-based Innovations	Team (IDT) approach, and IDT recruitment processes. Review and refine annually.
	• Support IDTs to explore, develop, test, package innovations at appropriate sociological levels (i.e., individual, interpersonal, system, environmental, policy), and for varied end-users (e.g., youth, caregivers/parents, youth-serving professionals, youth-serving systems).
	• Ensure that Hub-wide processes, environments, prototypes, and later-stage innovations are age appropriate, medically accurate, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and trauma-informed prior to dissemination and, if applicable, packaging.
	Incubator:
	• Support multiple cohorts of IDTs in discovery, exploring gaps and user needs, and building ideas through to prototype using participatory co-design methods. By the end of their time, IDTs with promising prototypes should be prepared (not necessarily selected) to transition to an Accelerator program.
	• Define phases based on research and organizational practice to include allowing IDTs to start with exploration of a question or challenge, and not immediately work on solution-finding. All IDTs should employ participatory co-design methods.
	• Incubators should not conduct outcome or impact evaluations but focus on collecting formative data.
	Accelerator:
	• Support multiple cohorts of IDTs with existing prototypes that demonstrate promise as they evaluate, refine, and prepare innovations for future evaluation, dissemination, and/or the next stage as appropriate.
	• Define what is meant by "promising" with OPA input and align definition with theory and accepted scientific discovery processes.
	• Communicate to IDT applicants with existing innovation prototypes that they should anticipate ongoing user feedback and should therefore be open to refinement, iteration, and even failing. All IDTs should employ participatory co-design methods.
	• Define phases and specific activities; evaluation related activities should be summative oriented.
	Hybrid:
	• Hybrid models should support multiple cohorts of IDTs as a combined version of the Incubator and Accelerator models and phases. Hybrid models will need to follow the same expectations outlined above for Incubator and Accelerator.
3. Advance Multiple Team Cohorts Through the Hub Using Intensive	• Identify and provide intensive capacity and skill-building supports to advance IDTs through the Hub pipeline. Identify anticipated support and articulate a process for assessing and addressing gaps tailored to the needs of the IDTs and/or IDT cohort.

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Innovation Capacity-building Process(es)	• Identify and provide subject matter expertise (SME) or experts to aid IDTs at appropriate stages of innovation development and evaluation.
	• Guide and assist IDTs with learning and conducting innovation stage appropriate evaluation activities related to their individual innovations, to include, identifying necessary evaluation activities and technical assistance (TA) as part of the Hub pipeline. Evaluation activities should be phase appropriate as outlined in NOFO Section I.4.
	   o IDTs should establish and refine logic models and/or theories of change to guide and assess their prototypes.
	   o Support IDTs to develop definitions of success and measures that align with their approach(es), intervention type/modality, social ecological level, and other unique considerations.
	   o Collect and report on IDTs measures and findings to OPA as part of regular reporting. As a reminder, OPA will not fund impact evaluations (e.g., randomized controlled trials) under this initiative.
	• Adopt, adapt, or create an **Innovation Capacity Assessment Tool** (CAT) (see Innovation Strategy Part II), with OPA approval, to measure progress in cultivating innovation capacity and inform course correction.
	   o Utilize the CAT as part of cohort on-boarding and off-boarding; based on pre- and post-findings, Hubs should make necessary changes to their IDT supports or internal processes to ensure they cultivate IDTs skilled in innovation methods and confident in innovation mindsets.
	   o Engage OPA TA liaisons as needed to develop broader capacity building activities.

4. Learn, Curate, and Propagate Findings	• Develop, execute, and maintain a Hub-level **Learning Agenda** (see Innovation Strategy Part I). Continuously explore learning questions, guided by Learning Agenda, and expose gaps in teen pregnancy prevention. Continuously revisit Learning Agenda and make modifications as needed. Submit to OPA for approval at least annually. • Develop and execute a **Dissemination Strategy** (see Innovation Strategy Part III) that prioritizes disseminating innovations and innovative practices and emerging stories about the Hub's overall process, formative findings, failures, and successes that will advance the field. • Incorporate and elevate IDTs, community members, parents/caregivers, and young people as powerful messengers. • Partner with OPA on shared dissemination efforts. • Regularly share learnings, collaborate, and communicate with other Hubs to advance Hub vision and goals of Innovation Hubs. • Have a dynamic virtual presence including on online platforms most relevant to its key stakeholders. • Develop and execute a clear, appealing, and compelling values-based branding for the project overall that connects with core users and other stakeholders.

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	• **Accelerators and Hybrids only** - Host "demo days" or something similar at the end of the cohort where external entities or partners are invited to learn more about the IDTs and their innovations. This may be done in concert with other Hubs. • Complete, by the end of the project, a **Final Innovation Hub Package** (guidance forthcoming) that documents the overall Hub approach and learnings, including successes, failures, and pivots.
5. **Monitor and Improve**	• Collect, analyze, and report **OPA Performance Measures** (see Performance Measures). • Develop and define Hub-specific measures of success aligned with the Logic Model and the Learning Agenda during the Planning Period, and revisit as needed. • Monitor the project to assess progress, and continuously improve Innovation Hub and its coordination of and support for IDTs. Ensure monitoring activities are reflected in the work plan and learning agenda. • Collect, analyze, and report on all performance measures (i.e., OPA PMs, Hub-specific PMs). Report on monitoring data, pivots made, and how it has impacted the project via **Semi-Annual Progress Report**. • Determine the need for and obtain necessary Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval(s) or exemption(s) under the guidance provided by the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP).
6. **Manage Complex and Adaptive Innovation**	• Create, execute, and maintain an annual Work Plan with clear goals, SMART objectives, and timelines. Clearly define Hub-level benchmarks and milestones. • Have a clear process that results in successfully identifying, recruiting, and onboarding new staff, including SMEs/subrecipient staff. • Recruit and retain highly qualified staff that possess significant innovation experience; and ensure that the team can uphold the vision and values expected of the overall project. • Ensure all staff responsible for executing the project, including SME/subrecipient staff, are actively engaged, well-trained, and prepared to successfully fulfill their roles and responsibilities. • Finalize and maintain Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) for partnerships or collaboration, including SMEs/subrecipient organizations involved in Hub coordination and IDT support.