**Fidelity and Adaptation for TPP20 Tier 1 Webinar**

**September 2, 2020**

**Questions from chat box**

*On September 2, 2020, OPA hosted a on Fidelity and Adaptations. The webinar provided an overview of fidelity, fidelity monitoring, adaptations and the new OPA adaptation request process. The following questions were raised during the webinar. Corresponding answers have been provided below:*

**Q: In the past we have gotten approval for less than 10% given the geographic reach of the population, is that possible?**

A: Develop a fidelity monitoring plan and establish implementation plans to help create a master schedule to help complete your observations. You should balance your observations across implementation sites, Facilitators/Teachers, and sessions of the program model. If after the development of a fidelity monitoring plan and implementation plans, you determine that you may not be able to meet the OPA expectation, please work with your project officer to determine how to best move forward.

**Q: What does it mean to observe 100% of facilitators?**

A: All facilitators (100%) and 10% of all sessions should be observed within a reporting period; between July 1 and June 30.

**Q: What is the desired threshold for dose and what is OPA’s benchmark for dosage?**

A: OPA has set the standard that youth should receive at least 75% of an effective program. OPA has also set a benchmark that at least 80% of youth in a section receive 75% of effective programming.

**Q: Is the attendance to be recorded school attendance or program attendance?**

A: Attendance specific to the effective program attendance is the performance measure that should be collected and reported to OPA. More information on Performance Measures will be shared via guidance and a webinar scheduled for September 23, 2020.

**Q: Do we need to submit two fidelity monitoring plans, one for every day and one for COVID-19?**

A: OPA recommends that you develop a realistic fidelity monitoring plan for your current situation. A fidelity monitoring plan is a living document that should be revisited and modified according to changing circumstances. Grantees should submit their initial fidelity monitoring plan into MAX during the planning period. Grantees should ensure that an accurate and up-to-date fidelity monitoring plan is available on MAX which may mean uploading newer versions if modifications are made to the fidelity monitoring plan. Guidance on developing and submitting a fidelity monitoring plan will be available as part of the overall Monitoring, Evaluation, and Improvement Plan Guidance and posted on MAX.

**Q: What if during virtual classes, you are unable to meet the student to teacher ratio?**

A: Please talk to your project officer to determine if this is a major or minor adaptation. As a reminder, all adaptations, major and minor, should be submitted via the MAX form.

**Q: Should we test adaptations prior to seeking approval?**

A: The first thing you should do is speak with your project officer to determine if the adaptation is minor or major and to figure out when may be the most appropriate time for you to pilot an adaptation. It may not be appropriate to pilot major adaptations as the may not be approved.

**Q: Will there be a document on MAX to describe the difference between minor and major adaptations?**

A: Yes. The [Adaptations tip sheet](https://community.max.gov/download/attachments/1763193717/Adaptations%20Tip%20Sheet.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1595955862003&api=v2)and the [Adaptation Guidance](https://community.max.gov/download/attachments/1470924643/OPA%20TPP%20Adaptation%20Guidance%20for%20Grantees%20-%20FINAL.docx?version=2&modificationDate=1599667512427&api=v2) are available on MAX and provide guidance on the difference between a minor and major adaptation.

**Q: Is there a template for reference for fidelity monitoring?**

A: The Monitoring, Evaluation, and Improvement Plan Guidance that will be posted on MAX.gov under TPP20 Tier 1 Guidance will include a recommended template to use when developing a fidelity monitoring plan.

**Q: How do you handle fidelity in an intervention situation? What is fidelity of the intervention process?**

A: Developers/Publishers of effective programs should have provided you with the tools needed to help monitor the program for fidelity. If not, please contact your project officer for assistance. OPA will provide an observation tool to be used for reporting observation *quality* data when performance measures are released.

**Q: When and how do we determine if an adaptation is needed?**

A: There are multiple reasons why an adaptation may be needed. For example, adaptations may be needed to make the program medically accurate, age appropriate, trauma-informed, and/or culturally and linguistically appropriate. Adaptations may also be identified as part of the fidelity monitoring process. Be sure to have a system in place to track fidelity so that adaptation may be identified and discussed with your project officer.

**Q: We identified several modifications to make to the effective program based on the materials review (mostly language for appropriateness and sensitivity). Does each modification need to be documented in the MAX adaptation form separately?**

A: For all minor adaptations of the same type, please make a one-time submission. Use the “type of adaptation” to guide you in how to properly categorize similar adaptations. Please add details of each specific modification made as a result of the material review.

**Q: Please describe the role of developers in determining core components and whether or not it is a major or minor adaptation?**

A: As part of the adaptation request process, OPA is asking grantees to solicit input regarding any **major** adaptation from developers/publishers of the effective program. Please note though that this input is *only taken into consideration*. OPA will make the final determination whether or not an adaptation is approved.

**Q: If a facilitator covers the class of another facilitator, would that be an adaptation?**

A: No this is not considered an adaptation unless the specific facilitator needed for a session is a specified position (e.g. nurse) that is being substituted by someone not in that field.

**Q: We are planning to utilize add-ons such as PearDeck or NearPod to make virtual implementation more engaging. Would that be considered a major adaptation?**

A: Please talk to your project officer to determine if this is a major or minor adaptation. As a reminder, all adaptations, major and minor, should be submitted via the MAX form.

**Q: Is virtual implementation considered an adaptation?**

A: All virtual implementations are considered an adaptation. If this adaptation is made as a result of impacts from COVID-19 then OPA is considering it a minor adaptation. Grantees are still required to document the adaptation on the MAX adaptation request form. If there are additional adaptations needed due to accommodate virtual implementation (e.g. shortening lessons, implementing lessons out of order to accommodate hybrid implementation), those additional adaptations need to be discussed with your project officer to determine if it is a minor or major adaptation and documented in MAX.

**Q: Is adding or removing a facilitator considered a minor or major adaptation?**

A: Please talk to your project officer to determine if this is a major or minor adaptation. As a reminder, all adaptations, major and minor, should be submitted via the MAX form.