



**Request for Applications (RFA):  
Evaluation Learning Community  
A HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) Project**

**Key Dates and Information**

Application Deadline	Applications are due by Friday December 12, 2025 at 5:00pm ET.
Notice of Award	Applicants will be notified of awards on or before December 29, 2025
Project Period	6 months; January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026
Number of Awards	Up to ten (10) organizations
Award Amount	\$2,000 per organization
Eligibility	Organizations currently implementing the HOPE framework or who will be launching a HOPE implementation project in January 2026
RFA Informational Webinar	Monday December 1, 2025 at 2pm ET This live <a href="#">webinar</a> will be recorded for those who may not be able to attend.

**Executive Summary**

The Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences National Resource Center (HOPE NRC) is launching the **2026 HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) Project!** This six-month project seeks to support organizations in their evaluation of a Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE) implementation project to demonstrate the HOPE framework’s impact on child/family outcomes, staff outcomes, and/or provider/family outcomes.

The 2026 HIN will support up to ten (10) organizations who are already implementing the HOPE framework or will be implementing a new project in January 2026. These projects must include evaluation components.

**Awarded organizations will attend a kick-off meeting, participate in three (3) monthly, 2-hour virtual learning sessions and two (2) individual evaluation support sessions, share data related to their implementation project, and share insights about their experience evaluating the HOPE framework.** Each must identify a certified HOPE Champion to support the implementation, attend the monthly learning sessions, and lead evaluation activities. Selected organizations will receive \$2,000 for their participation in a structured learning experience that includes evaluation support, peer exchange, and data sharing.

The project period is from January 1 to June 30, 2026. **Applications are due by Friday, December 12, 2025 at 5:00pm ET.** Late submissions will not be accepted.

### Why Participate?

Participation in the HIN Project offers organizations a unique opportunity to:

- Deepen their HOPE implementation and evaluation with access to in-depth evaluation support and technical assistance;
- Join a cohort of peer organizations for shared learning and collaboration;
- Contribute to the growing body of data showing the HOPE framework's impact on individuals, families, relationships, and organizations; and
- Get a head start in your organization's journey to complete the [HOPE-Informed Organizational Certification](#) program.

### About Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE)

The HOPE framework highlights the critical role positive childhood experiences (PCEs) play in lifelong health and well-being. Research shows that safe, stable, and nurturing experiences can promote resilience and help children grow into thriving adults. HOPE shifts the focus from solely addressing adversity to actively fostering these positive experiences within families, organizations, and communities. At the core of the HOPE framework are the [Four Building Blocks of HOPE](#) – Relationships, Environment, Engagement, and Emotional Growth – which provide a foundation for helping children and families flourish.

The [HOPE National Resource Center](#) (HOPE NRC) partners with organizations to embed these Building Blocks into practices, policies, and culture and create strengths-based, equitable systems that support well-being for all. The HOPE NRC provides training, technical assistance, research translation, and policy guidance to organizations and communities, helping professionals integrate HOPE into their work and ensuring that all children have access to the positive experiences that support lifelong well-being.

Over the last year, the HOPE NRC has been working to better understand how organizations are putting the HOPE framework into practice in their own unique settings. The 2025 HIN, which will conclude on December 31, 2025, has contributed to developing implementation evaluation guidance in ways that measure change for staff, families, and systems. This evaluation guidance will be released in early 2026. This 2026 HIN project will support organizations in their data collection and analysis to evaluate the impact of the HOPE framework on outcomes for children, families, staff, and the provider/client relationship.

### Overview

**HOPE NRC is pleased to announce its call for applications for the 2026 HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) Project.** The 2026 HIN will support up to ten (10) organizations who are currently implementing the HOPE framework or will be implementing a new project in January 2026. Each organization will receive \$2,000 to support their involvement in a six-month, structured experience that includes training, technical assistance, peer learning opportunities, and data collection. The goal of this project is to measure the impact of organizations' HOPE implementation efforts using a quality improvement approach.

Organizations will share quarterly data with the HOPE NRC (i.e., baseline, 3-months, and 6-months) to measure the impact of HOPE implementation on (1) children and families, (2) staff members, and/or (3) the provider/family relationship. HOPE NRC will lead discussions with organizations to inform their data collection and quality improvement processes to support effective and scalable HOPE implementation.

All organizations must identify one consistent individual to serve as their primary participant in the HIN cohort. *This individual must be a certified HOPE champion working in or with the applying organization.*

The project period will begin on January 1, 2026 and end on June 30, 2026. **Applications must be submitted by using the [electronic application form](#) no later than Friday, December 12, 2025 at 5:00pm ET.** Applications submitted after this time will not be considered.

HOPE NRC invites interested applicants to participate in an informational webinar on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, from 2:00pm-3:00pm ET. Register [here](#). The webinar will be recorded and available after the webinar has concluded. Participants are encouraged to bring any questions they may have regarding this opportunity. No new information will be shared during the webinar, and applicants do not need to wait for this optional webinar to begin or submit applications. Applicants may pose individual questions to HOPE NRC at any point during the application process by emailing Amie Myrick at [amie.myrick@tuftsmedicine.org](mailto:amie.myrick@tuftsmedicine.org) with the subject line “2026 HIN RFA Question”.

### HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) Description

HOPE NRC seeks up to ten (10) organizations who are currently implementing the HOPE framework or will be implementing a new project in January 2026. The project must fall under one or more of the following categories:

- **Internal Culture:** Aligning leadership, decision-making, physical and virtual environments, and work culture with HOPE;
- **Equity Advancement:** Assessing access to the Building Blocks and then creating policies and practices that reduce barriers and increase accessibility to PCEs;
- **Policies:** Applying HOPEful principles in organizational documents and policies;
- **Intakes:** Incorporating HOPEful principles in intake forms and processes;
- **Screenings/Assessments:** Designing screening and assessment forms and processes using HOPEful principles
- **Referrals:** Incorporating HOPEful principles into the development of referral and warm handoff processes
- **Program development:** Developing programming specifically intended to promote access to the Four Building Blocks, this may include modifying the process for case planning

Participating organizations will engage in a guided process over the course of a six-month period, beginning in January 2026. HIN participants will receive evaluation support from the HOPE NRC and support from peers as they implement their projects and engage in evaluation intended for internal quality improvement (QI) of HOPE implementation.

This year's project will assist organizations in collecting data that illustrates the measurable impact of the HOPE framework in **three core outcome areas**: child/family, staff, and provider/family relationships. Through participation, organizations will contribute to HOPE NRC's growing database that shows the impact of the HOPE framework on important individual, organizational, and public health outcomes.

All participating organizations will identify a HOPE Champion to serve as a consistent point of contact between the organization and the HOPE NRC, attend all HIN sessions, and support their organization in its completion of project activities. ***This individual must already be a certified HOPE champion working in or with the applying organization.***

## Eligibility

This opportunity is open to organizations that are either:

- **Ready to begin an implementation project in January 2026** that includes evaluation and aligns with at least one of the following categories: Internal Culture, Equity Advancement, Policies, Intakes, Screenings/Assessments, Referrals, Program development **or**
- **Currently implementing a project that can be evaluated.** This project must:
  - Align with at least one of the following categories: Internal Culture, Equity Advancement, Policies, Intakes, Screenings/Assessments, and/or Referrals
  - Have associated baseline data
  - Include an evaluation plan (or be able to support the addition of an evaluation plan)

Organizations may come from any sector (e.g., health, education, child and family services, justice) and may vary in size, structure, and population served. Previous HOPE Innovation Network (HIN) participants and organizations who are current or past participants in the HOPE Organizational Certification Program are encouraged to apply.

To be eligible, each organization must:

- Identify a certified HOPE Champion who will participate in all HIN activities and lead the organization's participation in the project
- Attend the project kick-off call.
- Attend three (3), 2-hour virtual meetings in the months of February, April, and June.
- Attend two (2) individual evaluation support sessions in the months of March and May.
- Commit to completing approximately 5–10 hours per month of evaluation activities.
- Be willing to sign a data sharing agreement to share the data collected and provide feedback about their implementation and evaluation experience.

## Project Goals and Responsibilities

The HOPE NRC will serve as technical assistance providers for HIN. This includes:

- Providing training and technical assistance relevant to implementation evaluation
- Connecting HIN organizations to one another through structured peer-to-peer and shared learning opportunities; and
- Offering resources that HIN organizations can use to communicate with the community, staff, and families about HOPE.

During the project, HIN participants will participate in the following:

- **Attend Kick-Off Call** – Organizations will attend a kickoff call on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 from 1:00 – 2:00pm ET with HOPE NRC to meet other selected organizations and review project goals.
- **Participate in Virtual Learning Sessions** – Organizations will participate in three (3) virtual, 2-hour learning opportunities on Wednesday 2/4, 4/1, and Wednesday 6/3 at 12:00pm ET. At minimum, the HIN HOPE Champion must attend each of these, but other organizational staff are encouraged to attend. Sessions will include facilitated discussions, peer learning, evaluation support, and access to new research and resources.
- **Participate in Individual Evaluation Support Sessions** – Organizations will participate in two (2) virtual, one-hour evaluation support sessions with the Director of Evaluation and Quality Improvement. The intent of these sessions is to discuss site’s successes, challenges, and technical assistance needs as they implement their project and evaluate its impact.
- **Engage in Evaluation Activities** – Organizations will utilize the HOPE NRC’s evaluation strategy for internal quality improvement<sup>1</sup>. As a part of this project, organizations will be asked to implement the strategy and report on the clarity, feasibility, and overall experience of incorporating it into HOPE implementation efforts. Sites will use the HOPE evaluation strategy to collect data on staff, client, and/or system outcomes.
- **Share Evaluation Data** – As a part of this project, organizations will identify 3-4 data sources with which they will measure the impact of their HOPE implementation projects. For each source, they will collect and share baseline and either monthly and/or quarterly data (e.g., 3-months and 6-months).
- **Complete End-of-Project Evaluation** – Towards the end of the project, organizations will complete a brief evaluation to provide feedback on technical assistance received and their overall experience in the HIN cohort to help inform future project design.

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<sup>1</sup> If an organization wishes to publish findings or use data for research, internal review procedures (e.g., IRB) may be required.

## Timeline and Deliverables

Scope of Work Activity	Associated Deliverables	Estimated Timelines	Participants Needed
Kick-Off Call	Attendance Sheet	January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified HOPE Champion</li> <li>• At least one additional person from the organization</li> </ul>
Virtual Learning Sessions	Attendance Sheet Learning Community Evaluation	February 2026 April 2026 June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified HOPE Champion</li> <li>• (Optional) Additional people from the organization</li> </ul>
Virtual Learning Sessions	Attendance Sheet	March 2026 May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified HOPE Champion</li> <li>• (Optional) Additional people from the organization</li> </ul>
Engage in Evaluation Activities	Signed Data Agreement Baseline Data Upload Monthly Data Uploads	January 2026 – June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified HOPE Champion</li> <li>• Individuals from the organization who are collecting data (Evaluation Implementation Team)</li> </ul>
Complete End-of-Project Evaluation	Completed Evaluation	June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified HOPE Champion</li> <li>• (Optional) Additional people from the organization who can assist in the Champion in completing the evaluation</li> </ul>

## Award Details

Each organization will receive a \$2,000 stipend upon successful completion of all project activities, including participation in learning sessions, evaluation activities, and the final project reflection.

## Application Process

Please provide the following information using the [electronic application form](#):

### Organization Information

- Organization Name and Primary Contact Information
- Description of Organization, including the Mission Statement. *(maximum 250 words)*
- Please describe the individuals served by your organization. *(maximum 300 words)*
- Is your organization currently implementing HOPE?
  - Yes
  - No, we are ready to implement beginning January 2026.
- If yes, are you planning a new implementation project to begin in January 2026?
  - Yes
  - No, we plan only to continue the implementation project that is already underway.
- Describe a specific example of how HOPE has influenced your organization's work so far. *(maximum 250 words)*

### HOPE Implementation

- Share the Aim Statement for your implementation project. Use this [Aim Statement Worksheet](#) to help you develop your statement.
- Is your project planned or in progress?
  - Planned with a start date of January 2026
  - In progress
- Briefly describe your planned or recently launched implementation project. Include information about
  - How you decided on this implementation project, including what qualitative, quantitative, or anecdotal information suggested a need for this project, and
  - How it addresses your Aim Statement *(maximum 350 words)*.
- What area(s) does your planned or current implementation project focus on? *Check all that apply:*
  - Internal Culture
  - Equity Advancement
  - Policies
  - Intakes
  - Screenings/Assessments
  - Referrals
  - Program development
- Upload your completed [Implementation Steps Worksheet](#) that outlines the steps you have taken or will take to implement your proposed project.

### Implementation Evaluation

- What outcomes are you evaluating in this project (Choose all that apply):
  - Child- and/or family-related outcomes
  - Staff-related outcomes
  - Provider/family relationship outcomes
  - Other (please describe)
- What data sources do you plan to use to measure the impact of your HOPE implementation project? Some examples are included below. Refer, too, to these [Data Collection Discussion Questions](#) for assistance with this section.
  - *Child and Family Outcomes*: Parenting Stress Index, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
  - *Staff Outcomes*: Professional Quality of Life (ProQoL) tool, Oldenburg Burnout Inventory
  - *Professional/Family Relationship*: Health Care Relationship (HCR) Trust Scale, Patient-Doctor Depth-of-Relationship Scale
- In which month will baseline data for these measures be collected? *If you have already collected baseline data, please indicate the month in which this data was collected.*
- Are there specific challenges you anticipate in evaluating HOPE’s impact in your setting? *(maximum 250 words)*

**Commitment to Project Activities**

- Name, title, and contact information for the HOPE Champion who will be the primary contact for this project. *Note, this individual must already be a certified HOPE Champion.*
- Can this person attend the Kick-Off call on January 14, 2026 at 1:00pm ET?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
- Can this person commit to attending the three learning sessions (2/4, 4/1, 6/3 at 12:00pm ET)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
- Can your organization commit to implementing your proposed HOPE project, including collecting data at baseline and additional points throughout the project (approximately 5-10 hours per month)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
- Is your organization willing to sign a data agreement and share the data you collect while implementing?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure

**Interest in the Project and Contribution to Cohort**

- What unique perspective, experience, or expertise would your organization bring to the HIN cohort? *(maximum 250 words)*
- What do you hope to gain from participating in the HIN Project? *(maximum 250 words)*

- Please share anything else you'd like us to know about your organization or your interest in this opportunity. (*maximum 200 words*)

## Application Selection Criteria

Each application will be evaluated by HOPE NRC staff based on the following criteria to ensure alignment with the 2026 HIN Project's goals and priorities. A scoring rubric based on the criteria below will be used to assess applications. The selection process will also prioritize diversity of cohort representation across different types of organizations, geographic locations, and communities served. Up to ten (10) organizations will be selected, with award notifications sent on or before December 29, 2025.

### *Organizational Readiness & Commitment (35%)*

- Clearly articulates how HOPE has influenced their work so far.
- Identifies a committed individual with time and support to engage in the HIN Project.
- Has staff capacity to dedicate time to project-related activities.
- Demonstrates internal capacity and leadership support to participate.

### *Evaluation Experience & Learning Goals (35%)*

- **If ready to implement HOPE project:** Clearly outlines the planned implementation project, describes what data will be collected, and how it will inform HOPE implementation.
- **If recently implemented HOPE project:** Clearly describes project progress, describes what data is being collected and how it will inform HOPE implementation, and can provide baseline data.

### *Contribution to the Cohort (30%)*

- Identifies a unique perspective, expertise, or experience that would benefit the HIN learning community.
- Expresses a collaborative mindset and commitment to peer learning.