



Project HOPE Celebrating Successes

Seeing Early Ripple Effects in States and Communities

Throughout the implementation of Project HOPE, a component of the evaluation plan includes “ripple effects.” Data on ripple effects is collected by Nemours’ evaluator, Altarum. Altarum defines ripple effects as events that may potentially shape early childhood partners, systems, policies, or practices, but occur outside of the central activities of the main project being evaluated. For example: two partner organizations develop a stronger relationship as a result of work on Project HOPE and then develop an initiative or apply for a grant together; or a participant in Project HOPE may decide to take the lead in enhancing equity, diversity, and inclusion training (EDI) in his or her agency or organization because of their experience with the project.

Below is a sample of some of the ripple effects we have documented thus far in the implementation of Project HOPE.

Ripple Effect: Strengthening a Lead HOPE Agency’s Approach to Tribal Communities

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) and Tribal Organizations and Representatives

Approximate Event Date: Winter 2018-2019

Significance: OPSR has attempted to meaningfully engage Tribes in the work that it does. As a result of HOPE, OPSR is working in partnerships with Tribal representatives and organizations to develop a community-focused approach to achieving the goals of the HOPE project. OPSR has met with Tribal child care representatives and the Intertribal Council and engaged in other discussions that may serve as a model for future endeavors involving OPSR and the Tribal community.

Ripple Effect: Rethinking Approaches to Cultural Competency/Cultural Humility Training

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: State Department Participant in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training in Oklahoma

Approximate Event Date: December 2018

Significance: Project HOPE is working to develop states’ capacity in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) to help frame their project work, enhance their existing work and allow them to focus on equity more broadly. In order to establish and implement inclusive and equitable planning, engagement, and



decision-making processes, Nemours provided EDI training and/or technical assistance to our HOPE states in partnership with the Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI). A participant the Oklahoma Cross-sector State Stakeholder Group (CSSSG) EDI training from a state department indicated that she planned to go back to her department and question the idea of doing “cultural competency” training and suggest they change the focus to “cultural humility” because, as indicated, in the training it is neither realistic nor respectful to aspire to cultural competency. This has the potential to open up a dialogue about the agency’s approach to EDI and lead to improvements that make it more useful.

Ripple Effect: Infusing an Equity Focus into Other Key Initiatives

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions (FAHSC)

Approximate Event Date: March 2019

Significance: One of the modules for the HOPE EDI training is Action Planning for EDI. During this session, the Director of Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions suggested that the agency needs to employ an equity lens with its initiatives beyond their federal Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Impact grant. FAHSC has encouraged the national ECCS initiative to put more of a focus on equity with some success. As a result of the training, the director indicated they would be taking another look at promoting an equity focus and addressing this issue with the Federal agency that funds the program. Florida’s Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant is \$10.2 million. Nationally MIECHV is a \$400 million program that provides funding to 56 states, territories, and community-based organizations to support communities in providing voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services. There is tremendous potential if the initiative puts a stronger focus on promoting equity.

Ripple Effect: Strengthening the Relationship between a State’s Key Early Childhood System Building Focused Agencies

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR)

Approximate Event Date: Ongoing

Significance: The agency with the strongest focus on early childhood system building in the state was not originally a member of the Oklahoma CSSSG for HOPE. In the process of developing a data report for Project HOPE, OPSR reached out to a local biostatistician with the agency who eagerly contributed her expertise to the report and who has a strong interest in infant mortality in Oklahoma. As a result of this connection, OPSR will engage this agency to learn more about their efforts. This potentially presents future opportunities for the two agencies to work closely together on issues related to HOPE and other projects.



Ripple Effect: Strengthening Parent Leadership and Building a Network of Parent Leaders through Leadership Training

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Florida Healthy Start and Parent Leaders in Various Locations across the State

Approximate Event Date: Ongoing

Significance: Florida is planning on using HOPE resources to send parent leaders associated with its ECCS initiative to parent leadership training at COFI which stands for Community Organizing and Family Issues. COFI trains parents in Family Focused Organizing which empowers them to make changes in their own lives, families, and communities. The training includes a focus on policy and systems change by training them to create a community-based policy agenda that starts with common concerns raised by parents, such as childcare and safety and giving them tools to communicate their ideas and concerns to decision-makers and to build partnerships with professionals to develop programs and policies that work. Once the training is complete, there will be parents trained in leadership skills in Tallahassee, Orlando, Miami, and the Tampa area who will also be able to connect on statewide issues. The parent leader based in Tallahassee has played a key role in a number of initiatives in that city beyond ECCS and the training will help ensure that there are strong parent leaders in other communities across the state with key leadership skills. If successful, the training may inspire other initiatives to support parents in their communities to attend such training.

Ripple Effect: Oklahoma put a stronger focus on equity in its Preschool Development Grant (PDG) application than it would have without having a HOPE grant

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness

Approximate Event Date: Fall 2018

Significance: Oklahoma indicated that because of the work that is being done around its HOPE grant, the state put a stronger emphasis on promoting equity in its PDG application than it otherwise would have. The state's vision for the grant is to create an "equitable mixed delivery system" and they highlighted their HOPE work in a number of places in the application. This is especially notable because the Funding Opportunity Announcement for the grant does not have any specifications around equity or disparity though it does make multiple references to focusing the grant on underserved or vulnerable populations. HOPE has already raised the profile of the equity issue in Oklahoma and equity will likely continue to be of greater importance in system building work in the state.



Ripple Effect: Modeling State-Community Collaborative Approach to Policy Development

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Washington State CSSG

Approximate Event Date: Ongoing

Significance: The Washington State CSSSG brings together a group of state and community representatives looking to develop a strategy to implement Help Me Grow in multiple communities as part of a statewide system, and to provide state support for those efforts. The Project Director envisions this effort serving as a model for other initiatives in the state and helping them move away from the more typical policy development practice where state agencies get together and develop initiatives before they engage the communities that are expected to implement them.