

BUDDIES PROJECT



PFH PARTNERSHIPS
FOR HEALTH

ITACC has contracted with Partnerships For Health (PFH) to develop and implement the Building Utilization-focused Developmental Disabilities Impact Evaluation Skills (BUDDIES) Project. The Project's goal is to build evaluation capacity and competencies so that Developmental Disability Councils (DDCs) are able to engage in continuous quality improvements, data-driven decision making, and communicate the impact of their Council.

The BUDDIES Project will provide evaluation technical assistance at both the organization and individual staff levels. Experienced evaluators will provide DDCs with the training and technical assistance needed for them to implement structural, system-level changes that increase their organizational evaluation capacity, and increase DDC staff's evaluation skills and confidence.

The BUDDIES Project will be implemented in four phases from 2022-2026:

Phase 1: Assessment

In May 2022, each DDC will be asked to complete one Organizational Evaluation Capacity Survey, and at least one Individual Evaluation Competency Survey. These survey results will be presented to all DDCs in August 2022.

Phase 2: Curriculum Development

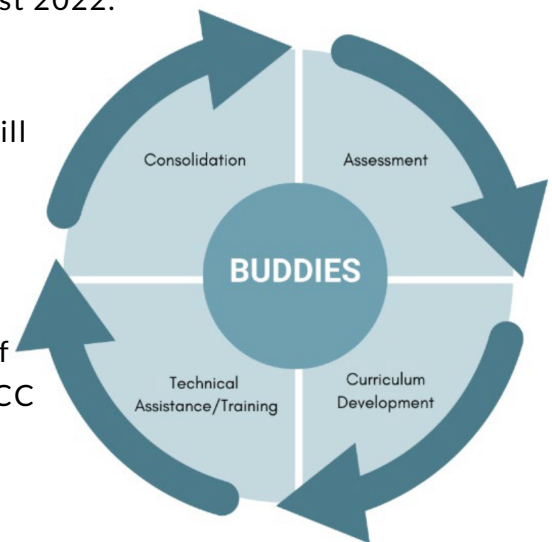
Using the results from the surveys, the evaluators will develop a Project ECHO curriculum.

Phase 3: Technical Assistance/Training

From 2023 onwards, a Project ECHO session will be facilitated every two months. In addition, a library of resources and materials will be available on the ITACC website.

Phase 4: Consolidation

In 2026, the evaluators will consolidate the knowledge generated and evaluate the overall impact of the Project.



The BUDDIES Project will utilize the Project ECHO structure, as this training platform has been shown to be an effective way to build knowledge, capacity, and confidence.

Described as an 'all-teach-all-learn' model, Project ECHO creates learning loops that link participants (DDCs) and experts (PFH) to create and sustain communities of praxis.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO IS PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTH?

PFH was founded in 2010, born out of the need to contribute to the use of evidence-based public health strategies to improve the overall health of all community members. PFH is based in Maine, and you can recognize us by our zebra logo.

Check out our website to find out more: <https://partnershipsforhealth.org/>

WHAT DOES THE BUDDIES PROJECT EXPECT DDCS TO DO IN 2022?

1. Each DDC is asked to complete the Organizational Evaluation Capacity Survey in May.
2. DDC staff are asked to complete the Individual Evaluation Competency Survey in May.
3. Attend the presentation of the survey findings in August.

WHAT IS PROJECT ECHO?

Project ECHO is a one-hour training session that will be held every two months from 2023 to 2026. The training topics will be based on the results from the surveys your Council will complete each year. The topics for each training session will be provided every 6 months, so you have an idea of what you and your fellow peers will be learning about.

ARE PROJECT ECHO SESSIONS OPEN TO ANYONE?

No, while we would love these training sessions to be open to everyone, these sessions will be for DDC staff and council members only. But we welcome you to share the information you learn with all your partners.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ASSESSMENTS?

As part of the ITACC Institute Meeting on May 12th, PFH will be facilitating a session for you to ask any questions you might have about the assessments.

IF I HAVE QUESTIONS, WHO DO I CONTACT?

If you have any questions regarding the BUDDIES Project, please reach out to Michelle Munsey at mmunsey@partnershipsforhealth.org.

