

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) occurs in up to 5% of school-aged children. Prevent FASD and care for those diagnosed with it by joining The SAFEST Choice Learning Collaborative.

Alcohol use during pregnancy is the leading preventable cause of birth defects and neurodevelopmental abnormalities in the U.S. *The SAFEST Choice Learning Collaborative* aims to reduce prenatal alcohol exposure and improve outcomes in children with suspected or diagnosed FASD. This program, a partnership between Boston Medical Center and Proof Alliance, will use Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO®) virtual education to engage healthcare teams at community health centers (CHCs) in FASD education. **Costs of participation are covered by this program which is funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).** Priority areas include states in New England (Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Connecticut) and the Upper Midwest (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan).

CHCs will participate in Prenatal and/or Pediatric ECHO® cohorts to learn FASD specialty-specific core competencies. The **Prenatal Cohort** will learn how to screen for and counsel women about the risks of alcohol use during pregnancy. The **Pediatric Cohort** will learn how to identify and care for children and adolescents with suspected or diagnosed FASD. Participation in both cohorts provides a streamlined approach for healthcare teams to prevent and address FASD across the lifespan with their patient population.

By becoming a *SAFEST Choice Learning Collaborative* participant, each CHC will receive:

- **Free Continuing Education and Maintenance of Certification Part 2 credits**
- **Ongoing technical assistance to address implementation challenges**
- **Stipend of up to \$6,500 to support a Champion at the CHC to help support program implementation**

Time Commitment

Participation will begin in June 2021. After an introductory webinar there will be ten 60-minute virtual ECHO® sessions delivered over the course of 12 months. Each session will provide a brief lecture by experts, case-based learning and collaborative problem-solving.

Clinic Staff

Participating CHCs are encouraged to invite all appropriate clinic staff who will be involved in implementation of FASD prevention and care. This may consist of family physicians, pediatricians, OB/GYNs, NPs, PAs, CNMs, other medical personnel, behavioral health staff, and paraprofessionals such as community health and outreach workers.

If you would like more information on how your community health center can be part of the SAFEST Choice Learning Collaborative, email Kendra Gludt at kendra.gludt@proofalliance.org