

Disabilities Studies and Services

REPLICATION OF MODEL IN MASSACHUSETTS

Our Let's Participate! Model includes training and coaching, the establishment of assistive technology lending libraries, and policy reform.



Our Disabilities Studies and Services department works to ensure that children and youth with disabilities are able to participate fully at home, in school, in the community, and at work. We strengthen the infrastructure of organizations that advocate for, teach, work with, and otherwise support children with disabilities and their families. Among current projects are the following.

LET'S PARTICIPATE MODEL

In Massachusetts we work with the State Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities or at risk of developing disabilities. Our Let's Participate! Model includes training and coaching, the establishment of assistive technology lending libraries, and policy reform. Though not slated for state-wide replication until 2018, the state is so pleased with the model that they have requested immediate replication.

RESOURCES FOR NATIONAL AUDIENCES

Our Center on Technology and Disability (CTD) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to bring information, training, and technical assistance on assistive and instructional technology to national audiences, including families of children with disabilities, parent training centers, educators, personnel preparation programs, researchers, SEA/LEA administrators, assistive technology specialists and developers, vendors, and service providers. CTD's web-based library provides hundreds of evidence-based resources in multiple media and languages. The CTD Café connects audiences with assistive and instructional experts through an active schedule of webinars, week-long forums, and Tweetchats. In the CTD Learning Center, participants can earn continuing education credits by participating in in-depth e-learning modules. Check out CTD at: www.ctdinstitute.org

About FHI 360: FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research, technology, communication and social marketing — creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 70 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

PRODUCING PARENT INFORMATION

As the prime sub-grantee on the Center for Parent Information Resources (CPIR), FHI 360 staff are responsible for the production of a wide array of parent-friendly resources, including website content. They also disseminate CPIR information to parent centers, advocates, family members, and others, through national social media networks.

SUPPORTING COLLABORATION AMONG ORGANIZATIONS

Our Technical Assistance Coordination Center (TACC) is coming to the end of many years of very productive service in support of the OSEP-funded Technical Assistance and Dissemination network. Among its many activities TACC was known for its very popular “placemat”, providing updated information about all organizations in the network. Throughout 2015, TACC sponsored an active webinar series designed to encourage collaboration among the organizations.

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