

THE DATA-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING (TA) NEEDS OF RYAN WHITE GRANTEES

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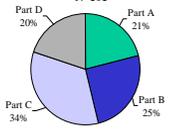
INTRODUCTION

- Data is used to meet multiple needs for Ryan White-funded programs
 - Reporting, planning, quality improvement, program management, and others
- As a result, the demands for data collection and utilization continue to increase
- HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) provides a wide range of TA resources to support grantee needs
- In 2007, HAB asked JSI to evaluate grantees' data TA needs to plan for future TA
- JSI spoke to 101 grantees about these needs

METHODS

- JSI conducted semi-structured discussions with 101 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grantees
 - There were 21 Part A, 25 Part B, 35 Part C, and 20 Part D funded programs
 - Grantees represented a range of organizational types, geographic locations, and sizes
- The discussions covered data management systems, data uses, self-reported data-related TA received, and areas in which TA needs still exist
- Responses were analyzed using qualitative and quantitative methods

Distribution of RFI Respondents by Part
N=101



DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

- Grantees' data management systems varied widely, from custom-made Electronic Medical Records to simple Access databases
- The majority of grantees use more than one database to store, compile, and report data
- The capacity of grantees' data management systems varied widely in ability to
 - Link client data to different service providers
 - Run custom reports
 - Link between databases
- These differences were seen regardless of Part or status as service provider (direct or indirect)

	Parts A & B (N=46)	Parts C & D (N=55)
Use Multiple Data Systems	20 (43%)	45 (81%)
Custom Database Only	23 (50%)	7 (13%)
CAREWare Only	2 (4%)	2 (4%)
EMR Only	NA	1 (2%)
Paper Only	1 (2%)	0

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACCESSED

- Multiple sources of data-related TA are being accessed by grantees
- The most commonly reported was TA for Ryan White Data Report (RDR) reporting (45%)
- Grantees accessed other forms of data-related TA offered through HRSA/HAB:
 - Ryan White Program Data Support¹
 - HRSA Call Center
 - CAREWare TA²
 - HAB Technical Assistance Contract
 - Project Officers
 - National Quality Center
 - Other HAB TA Providers

¹Grantees reported receiving Ryan White Program Data Support through onsite RDR training and the RDR Help Desk

²Grantees reported receiving TA and training on CAREWare through the CAREWare help desk, email, listserv, CAREWare training.

IDENTIFIED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

Despite grantees' access to data-related TA, we found that 90% of grantees, independent of Part, service type, or size, identified at least one current data-related TA need. These included:

- Data Collection
- Data Reporting
- Using Program Data
- Assessing effectiveness of their current data systems

1. Data Collection

- Increase grantee capacity to link, merge, and extract data from existing data systems
 - Example: Grantees requested assistance linking databases to more efficiently compile data
- Improve understanding of national and local rules and regulations that govern sharing data
 - Example: How does HIPAA affect data sharing across contractors?
- Help standardizing and improving data reporting across their contractors
 - Example: Grantees understand the need for data quality, but want help how to improve areas such as timeliness, completeness and accuracy of data from contractors

2. Data Reporting

- More detailed guidance on data reporting to better understand areas of HAB's data reporting expectations, and putting the definitions into practice within their own funding streams
 - Example: TA to understand how to implement funded scope reporting in the context of their specific funding streams
- Further guidance on how multiple-funded programs should report data
 - Example: the optimal approach to reporting on clients receiving services funded by different Parts to reflect both how RWP program funding were used AND what spectrum of care was provided to clients

(continued...)

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- Additional interviewers Julia Hidalgo and Jeffrey Menzer

ADDITIONAL IDENTIFIED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

3. Using Program Data

- Grantees reported needing TA on utilizing data for planning, assessing unmet need, and quality management
 - Utilizing outside data sets including CDC data as well as the data collected for RWP reporting
 - Improve staff capabilities to do data analysis and use statistical software

4. Assessing effectiveness of data systems

- Grantees identified a need for assistance in understanding the current capacity of their data systems, and improving the utilization of these data systems to:
 - Access needed data from multiple sources
 - Generate standardized reports for data reporting and other program needs
 - Learn how to improve systems' effectiveness for data collection, management, utilization and reporting to meet current and future needs
 - Help adding data elements
 - Understanding capabilities of all the databases within their data management system
 - Help de-duplicating data
 - Reduce data entry to one database
 - Training for staff to better utilize the data management system

CONCLUSIONS

- Grantees access a considerable amount of data-related TA
- Despite this, most grantees interviewed still identified at least one current, unresolved data-related need
 - Some needs can be met with existing resources by increasing grantee knowledge of resources
 - Some needs can be met by increasing current TA resources
 - Others will require new TA approaches
- Grantees need assistance and guidance to better define their data-related challenges and access appropriate TA support
- Grantees' data management systems are diverse, so there is no one-size-fits-all data management and TA strategy
 - Complicates development of TA which can address issues of multiple grantees
- There is inevitable tension for data systems to accommodate both the need for data for RWP reporting, and for program management and other uses including patient care
 - This is particularly challenging for grantees for whom RWP funding represents only a small proportion of activities provided by the grantee's institution

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop self-guided learning tools to help grantees to understand and articulate their TA needs
- Implement a coordinated strategy across HAB TA resources to ensure that grantees are aware of existing data-related TA opportunities
- Work to develop resources to effectively and efficiently meet new needs identified
- Work to develop resources to help grantees and their contracted providers look to other parts of the data systems within their organizations and use similar or compatible processes for electronic data collection, storage, retrieval, and use