



New England (HHS Region 1)

PTTC

Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



New England PTTC Project ECHO: Prevention in the Era of Commercial Cannabis

The landscape of cannabis prevention has changed dramatically as states across the country continue to pass laws decriminalizing or legalizing cannabis possession and establishing commercial markets for cannabis. In New England, all states allow medical use of cannabis while Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont also allow adult use. Substance misuse prevention professionals must be able to adjust their approach to cannabis prevention to adapt to changing public perception of cannabis, respond to changing policies, and be aware of new products and trends in cannabis use and misuse across the lifespan. Through this New England PTTC Project ECHO, we will seek to provide support and education for substance misuse prevention professionals to address the changing landscape of cannabis prevention in their state and communities. The overall goals of this ECHO are to increase use of evidence-based approaches to cannabis prevention, policy and communication in New England.

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of the Project ECHO, participants will be able to:

- Identify current research on cannabis effects and trends in use
- Identify current evidence-based strategies to prevent youth and young adult cannabis use and mitigate problematic adult use
- Describe the trends of how commercial cannabis markets are emerging and evolving in New England states
- Discuss environmental and policy approaches that may be effective for cannabis prevention
- Use effective communication strategies to educate adults and youth about cannabis risk

Project ECHO®: Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes) is an evidence-based distance learning method developed by researchers at the University of New Mexico, in which a group of faculty experts meets regularly with a participant cohort to engage in case-based discussion and learning. Using this format, this group will meet for 1.5 hours via Zoom videoconference on a monthly basis for 10 months consecutively. Each session will include a brief expert-led educational segment and an extended participant-led case discussion.

Potential topics for discussion:

- Current research on short and long-term effects of cannabis
- State and local cannabis policy and implications for prevention
- Cannabis trends among youth and adults
- Environmental and policy approaches to cannabis prevention
- Evidence-based interventions for youth, young people and adults
- Impacts of race and ethnicity on cannabis policy, enforcement and prevention
- Effective communication strategies to address cannabis risk
- Overview of cannabis legalization laws and policies in New England

Faculty:

- **Renee Johnson, PhD** – Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health; Expertise: Substance use epidemiology, emerging adults
- **Ken Winters, PhD** - Senior Scientist at the Oregon Research Institute (MN location); Expertise: Adolescent substance use and health, addiction assessment and intervention
- **Josh Esrick, MPP** – Senior Policy Analyst, Carnevale Associates; Expertise: Substance use and behavioral health policy and regulation and implications for prevention
- **Gisela Rots, MS, CPS** – Project Director, Center for Strategic Prevention Support; Expertise: substance misuse and youth risk prevention
- **Scott Gagnon, MPP, CPS** – Project Director, New England PTTC; Expertise: Substance use policy and implications for prevention

Eligibility for Participation:

- Work in a New England state (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)
- Participants are encouraged to apply as a team from an organization, coalition or program working on cannabis (marijuana) prevention. Team members do not have to be employed by the same organization (e.g. a coalition staff person and sector representative could participate as a team)
 - Individuals may apply but application priority will be granted to those applying as a team
- Participants should have a current cannabis prevention initiative as part of their workplan
- At least 1 year of general prevention experience is recommended for individual participants or for at least 1 member of a team.

Participant Commitment:

Participants in the program will be expected to:

- Attend at least 90% of sessions via Zoom
- Participate in group discussions throughout the Project ECHO cohort
- Participate in development and presentation of a case, either individually or as part of a team. Presentation dates will be selected in advance.
- Complete pre- and post-ECHO evaluation surveys
- Communicate with the ECHO coordinator in advance if any of these conditions cannot be met

Program dates: **Meets 3rd Thursday each month from 12:00-1:30pm**

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|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Participant Orientation – 8/19/21 | • 1/20/22 |
| • 9/16/21 | • 2/17/22 |
| • 10/14/21 | • 3/17/22 |
| • 11/18/21 | • 4/14/22 |
| • 12/16/21 | • 5/19/22 |

Optional additional sessions outside of the listed dates may be added depending on the interest of the group.

How to apply:

Please complete the application form online by June 30, 2021. The online application form can be accessed via the link below.

Online Application Link: <https://forms.gle/66E48zTW78A8Essd8>

If you are unable to access the online form, you may complete the document below instead and submit it to the New England PTTC ECHO Coordinator, Kristen Erickson via email (kerickson@ccsme.org) by June 30.



Application: New England PTTC Project ECHO: Prevention in the Era of Commercial Cannabis

Primary contact person

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

City/Town and State:

Organization:

Position Title:

Are you applying as a?

Team

Individual

Are you with a Drug Free Communities coalition? YES NO

If applying as a team, please complete the additional team member information below.

Additional Team Member information:

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

Organization:

Position Title:

[Add information for additional team members here as needed]

Application Questions:

1. Briefly describe your organization/coalition/agency:
 - a. What is the organization and what are the services or programs provided by the organization?

Participant Agreement:

By completing this application, I agree to the following expectations for participation in this program:

- I will attend and participate in at least 90% of the Project ECHO sessions conducted via Zoom.
- I will be respectful of fellow participants and follow conduct guidelines during Project ECHO sessions.
- I will participate in the development and presentation of a case presentation for 1 ECHO session as part of a team (individual participants may be grouped with another participant for this purpose).
- I will complete the pre- and post-ECHO surveys conducted for New England PTTC evaluation.
- If any circumstances change that will prevent me from meeting these expectations, I will provide advanced notice to the ECHO coordinator.

YES, I agree to the participant expectations listed above.

Name

(Date)