

COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (CBH)
PARTICIPANTS IN THE APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA) TRAINING FOR
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REHABILITATIVE SERVICES (BHRS)

Request for Applications (RFA)

Questions and Answers

1. **How are providers expected to manage the ongoing costs of training for TSS workers after the initial 40 hours of training? Could the requirement be changed to say by training by Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) Continuing Education (CEU) approved provider?**

Applicants should develop a plan for staff training requirements and professional development to ensure compliance with CBH's ABA Performance Standards. The requirement indicates "TSSs will obtain 10 hours of BACB approved CEUs annually and follow their agency and CBH's policies and procedures regarding other trainings as required" per page 10 of the RFA. Please see details on the requirements of BACB approved CEUs on their website here- <https://bacb.com/continuing-education/>

2. **Can the provider do a 'train the trainer' for the rest of the staff of the agency?**

The online training opportunity being offered in this RFA through Rethink Behavioral Health is not intended to be a 'train the trainer' model.

3. **The original ABA guidance notes that applications will be reviewed on a rolling, monthly basis. Besides the April 7th new deadline, are there other subsequent submission dates?**

This RFA is for an ABA online training opportunity in BHRS. The April 7, 2017 deadline is for the submission of the RFA application for online ABA training for Therapeutic Support Staff (TSS) level staff.

The CBH Application for ABA Designation is a separate application for current CBH BHRS providers who are interested in becoming an ABA Designated Provider in which applications continue to be accepted on a rolling basis. For details on the guidelines for the CBH Application for ABA Designation, please review here: <http://dbhids.org/providers-seeking-information/community-behavioral-health/cbh-provider-manual/> and click on the 'Application for ABA Designation' link.

4. **Would a provider be able to still pursue the designation if not selected for the RFA?**

Yes..The ABA Designation is a separate process. This RFA is for an online training opportunity. Applicants can obtain the required ABA training reflected in the CBH ABA Performance Standards

(<http://dbhids.org/wp-content/uploads/1970/01/ABA-Performance-Standards-Dec-2016.pdf>) through alternative training venues/trainers, if desired. Additionally, providers can pursue the CBH ABA designation by completing the ABA Designation Application. Providers may reference the BACB RBT training requirements here <https://bacb.com/rbt-training-requirements/>

5. Is it required that we use a BCBA person to help us prepare the application given the short turn around deadline?

It is not required that the BCBA prepare the RFA application. Applicants should select the individual(s) at their agency who are most qualified/knowledgeable to develop the agency's plan for their ABA program in preparation for completion of the application.

6. What is the number of training slots for this RFA?

The number of training slots has not been identified, as it will depend on the number of applications received and the number of slots requested by each of the selected applicants. Please reference pages 13-15 of the RFA for related information. Applicants will receive notification of their selection and the number of slots allocated. Applicants can contract independently with Rethink for additional clinical suite components and RBT training slots.

7. Does the BCBA Team leader need to be identified?

No, the BCBA Team Leader does not need to be identified. Applicants that do not have a BCBA Team Leader on staff should indicate their recruitment process and tentative start date for the team leader.

8. Can this BCBA be a consultant or a full time staff within the agency?

Applicants should develop an agency staffing plan which includes the anticipated employment status for the BCBA. In addition, applicants should reference staff and supervision requirements on pages 10-11 of the CBH ABA Performance Standards.

9. When new staff is hired for this program, will they need to take the training?

All selected applicants through this RFA will have the same one year period in which to access the online ABA training and resource library through Rethink Behavioral Health. New TSS staff can start the online training at any time within the one year period, provided the applicant still has training slots available.

10. **Due to the transient aspect of many TSS staff, what happens if two people leave a provider? How does the agency fill these newly opened training slots? Can they be transferred to another staff member?**

At this time, there will not be an opportunity for selected applicants to fill a training slot if a staff member leaves the agency before completing the online training. Applicants will need to consider the development of their ABA team and the selection of staffing involved in providing ABA services. Support will be provided during implementation to selected applications around team development, if needed.

11. **Will there be a crosswalk of this ABA training with the CBH required trainings?**

Please see the [Rethink Advanced Training Overview](#) for details of the ABA online training curriculum that is offered through this training opportunity.

For additional staff training requirements, please reference the 'Staff Requirements' section of CBH's ABA Performance Standards; the CBH yearly training requirements in the CBH Manual for Review of Provider Personnel Files here- <http://dbhids.org/providers-seeking-information/community-behavioral-health/cbh-compliance/>; and also the DHS- PA TSS training requirements, which can be found on their website- <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/index.htm>

12. **Do providers need ABA certified clinicians to participate in this RFA? Is there a need for a licensed staff in order to participate?**

No, applicants do not need ABA-certified clinicians to participate in this RFA. Please see pages 10-11 of the CBH ABA Performance Standards for details on staff requirements related to licensure.

13. **Are there stipulations about how many TSS are needed?**

No, this would depend on the size of your ABA program. Please also see page 10 of the CBH ABA Performance Standards for details on staff requirements.

14. **What percentage of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) children would need this service?**

Page 1 of the CBH Performance Standards provides current data around the need for additional treatment services for youth with ASD nationally, in Pennsylvania and also in Philadelphia. The overall numbers/percentage of youth with ASD in CBH's network who would need ABA in BHRS is continually being assessed. CBH Member Services is also tracking parent requests for ABA and CBH's Clinical Department is tracking requests received through BHRS for ABA.

As with any treatment determinations, a recommendation for ABA should be determined individually and when found to be developmentally and diagnostically appropriate. This number will vary from provider to

provider depending on the number of youth served, the specific needs of the provider's population, and the other supportive services that youth receive from throughout the continuum of care. ABA is the current evidence-based practice (EBP) for individuals with ASD and should be considered for children who need attention to both the development of socially significant skills and reduction in problem behaviors.

15. **Per the RFA-- "In order to be eligible for the ABA Training, applicants must demonstrate that an adequate number of CBH members will benefit from implementation of an ABA program." What is an adequate number?**

The intent of this training opportunity is to support providers in their ability to train TSS staff in ABA and ultimately to increase access to ABA treatment services for children and families in the CBH network. Applicants should indicate both their current and projected census and a projection of the percentage of members who would potentially receive ABA services. Applicants must make individual determinations regarding program size and sustainability.