

# Pathways

## MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

PO Box 9300, 34 Bedford Street,  
Portland, ME 04104  
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<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads>

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### Update on Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network for Summer 2017

In April, MRTQ PDN submitted a proposal to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for the work of the Professional Development Network. In early May we were notified that our proposal received the highest score. Our next step is to sign an agreement with DHHS for the scope of work and budget. As soon as we have a signed contract, we look forward to sharing plans for the new work of MRTQ PDN with you.

To stay up-to-date on MRTQ PDN's plans going forward, including a training schedule for late July and August, please refer to *SHORTcuts*, the weekly email update from MRTQ PDN. All Registry members with web access receive *SHORTcuts* every Wednesday.

There are a number of ways for you and your program to access professional development opportunities during the summer, including:

- Learn more about the **MRTQ PDN Technical Assistance System**, including consultation and peer-to-peer networking opportunities, on page 2 of this newsletter.
- MRTQ PDN has received a generous grant from the Davis Family Foundation to provide targeted support for quality improvement around four specific areas: **developing or articulating a curriculum framework, assessment of child progress, professional development planning, and ongoing program evaluation**. Programs participating in this project will receive online access to "quality improvement toolkits" (QIT), peer-to-peer support from group members, and on-site consultation from a trained facilitator. For more information, visit our website at: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/qit.htm>
- We are still recruiting programs for the **Go NAP SACC** (Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care) program! This grant-funded initiative provides support for programs using the Go NAP SACC tool and provides FREE training hours. For more information, visit: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/gonapsacc.htm>.
- Have you completed the Better Kid Care training **Health and Safety Basics: Requirements for Certification?** This is the REQUIRED training that ALL staff at programs serving families with a Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) voucher MUST complete by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Until June 30<sup>th</sup>, completing the training is FREE to you; to learn more about the training and information on how to complete it for free, use this link: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/healthsafety.html>.

If you have any questions about MRTQ PDN or its services, please contact us at 1-888-900-0055. We look forward to sharing program updates with you over the next few months!

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View the *SHORTcuts* archive here:

<https://goo.gl/5ROUqg>.

### How to reach us...

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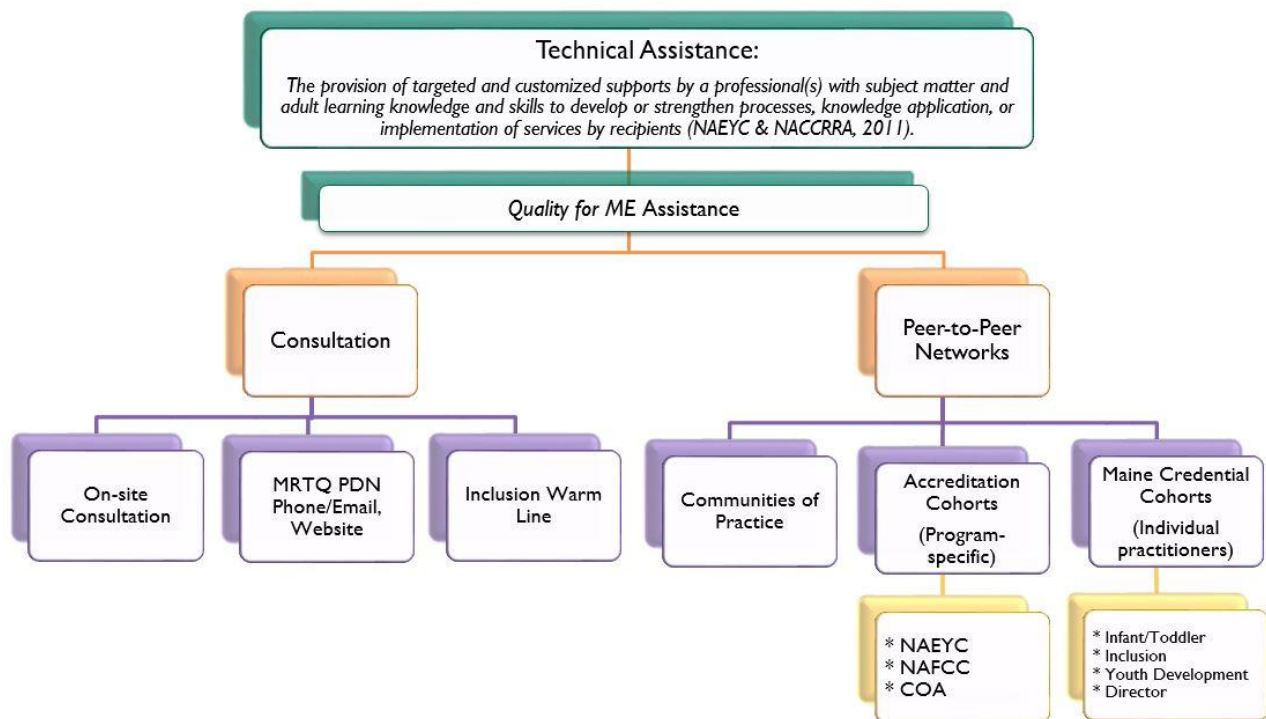
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## MRTQ PDN Technical Assistance System

[Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network](#) has created a statewide system to offer technical assistance (TA) services to early childhood and school age programs working to improve program quality. The TA System supports the reflective processes that practitioners need in order to apply the theories and information learned through education and/or training to improve or sustain best practices. The next two pages will describe in detail the different parts of this system and how the pieces can support you and your program with a wide variety of services.

To begin, the illustration below shows the structure and components of the TA System and how the pieces relate to each other. The top box, under “Technical Assistance,” gives the definition of TA that MRTQ PDN uses throughout the system.

Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network  
Technical Assistance System 2017



Under the definition of TA is a box labeled “Quality for ME Assistance.” The Quality for ME standards are the foundation of all TA offered by MRTQ PDN. Programs not already enrolled with Quality for ME will be encouraged to complete an application as part of the TA process, specifically for **on-site consultation**.

Recognizing the individual aspects and goals of early childhood and school age settings, the MRTQ PDN TA System includes a variety of approaches tailored to meet the unique needs of each setting. The next level of the graphic – the orange boxes – are the two broad categories of TA offered by MRTQ PDN. Let’s look at each separately.

The category of **consultation** includes the following:

- **Phone and email support**, as well as the MRTQ PDN **website** resources. Phone and email support can be requested by calling 1-888-900-0055 or emailing [mrtq.contact@maine.edu](mailto:mrtq.contact@maine.edu). Staff are available to answer

questions during business hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm. Messages will be returned as soon as possible. The MRTQ PDN website is available at: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads>.

- The **Inclusion Warm Line** serves as the first step in providing practical, accurate information to support the successful inclusion of children with special health needs, disabilities, mental health concerns, or challenging behavior. A warm line provides preventative and non-emergency person-to-person support and resources. The MRTQ PDN **Inclusion Warm Line** is jointly staffed by professionals with expertise in inclusive practices, disabilities, children’s health, social and emotional development, behavior, and early childhood mental health. You can contact the **Inclusion Warm Line** at (toll free) 1-844-209-5964 or by emailing [inclusion.warmline@maine.edu](mailto:inclusion.warmline@maine.edu). Calls and emails will receive a response within one business day. Learn more at: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/warmline.htm>.

- **On-site consultation** involves individualized, on-site support to programs using a partnership approach. Trained consultants are available statewide to assist programs with a wide variety of topics, including *leadership* (e.g. policies, procedures, staff wellness, professional development) and *teaching* (e.g. curriculum, assessment, environment, challenging behaviors). Program owners or directors can request **on-site consultation** using our online form, located on our website: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/ta.htm>. The partnership element of on-site consultation is key – this means that a commitment of time and effort is required on the part of the owner/director and program staff receiving **on-site consultation**.

*“The one-on-one conversations were very helpful. Sometimes having a person specifically observing our behavior, language, etc. as a teacher can be intimidating, but the conversation afterward – and the entire process – were very helpful!”*

Practitioner receiving on-site consultation

The category of **peer-to-peer networks** offers opportunities for practitioners to learn from and with each other by problem-solving and sharing resources and strategies. Peer-to-peer networks involve attendance at regular meetings (either in-person, via phone, or online) and participating in the peer community. Peer-to-peer networks include:

- **Communities of practice** (CoPs) generally meet monthly, for approximately two hours at a time. Regional and topical groups meet in all regions of Maine and are open for new members any time. **Communities of practice** are a type of professional development where the content of the discussion is driven by the needs of the participants. MRTQ PDN-sponsored **communities of practice** receive support from a trained facilitator. For more information, visit our website: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/ta.htm>.
- **Accreditation cohorts** are groups that meet around the specific topic of national accreditation. MRTQ PDN offers support for *programs* pursuing NAEYC, NAFCC, or COA accreditation. For more information, see the “Accreditation” section of our website: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/accreditation.htm>.
- **Credential cohorts** are groups for *individuals* looking for additional support in pursuing one of the Maine credentials – Infant Toddler, Youth Development, Director, or Inclusion. More information will be available in the Fall edition of *Pathways*; you can read more on our website: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/credentials.htm>.

All of the TA services described here are provided **free of charge** and can be accessed by any person or program providing child care and early education services in Maine. Child care centers, family child care programs, out-of-school time programs, Head Start, legal unregulated providers, and nursery schools are eligible.

If you have questions or would like more information about any of the services described here, please explore the web links listed above or contact us directly at 1-888-900-0055 or [mrtq.contact@maine.edu](mailto:mrtq.contact@maine.edu). We look forward to working with you!

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## The Portland Institute | Summer 2017 Workshops The Abromson Center | USM | Portland



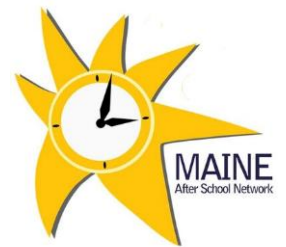
The Portland Institute sponsors summer workshops for mental health professionals and early childhood educators in beautiful Portland, Maine. Join them to explore innovative programs, be inspired by thought leaders in the field, and connect with colleagues and friends in a multi-disciplinary, experiential learning environment! Workshops will include:

- *Building Resilience through Relationships*
- *Handling Challenging Behavior in the Preschool Classroom*
- *Liberating the Lunchroom: A Slow Foods Approach to Feeding Young Children*
- *Welcoming the Immigrant Child and Their Family in the Classroom*
- *The Power of the Natural World*

To learn more and to register, visit The Portland Institute's website at: <http://www.theportlandinstitute.com>.

## Update – or Join! –with the Maine Afterschool Network

The Maine Afterschool Network (MASN) is in the process of updating its membership platform. We are asking that everybody take a moment to update their information by visiting [www.maineafterschool.org](http://www.maineafterschool.org) and following the membership tab at the top. The Maine Afterschool Network offers several membership options, including communications and program quality assistance memberships.



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 This newsletter is funded by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, Child Care Development Block Grant.