



Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department

1304 S. 25th Ave. • Edinburg, Texas 78542
Tel: (956) 383-6221 • Fax: (956) 383-8864

Iván Meléndez, M.D., M.B.A.
Health Authority / Chief Physician

Eduardo Olivarez
Chief Administrative Officer

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Michelle Cantu, MPH
Director, Infectious Disease & Immunization
National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO)
1201 I St. NW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 507-4251; Fax: (202) 783-1583
mcantu@naccho.org

Dear Michelle Cantu:

Hidalgo County Health & Human Services Department is a committed partner of the *Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Training (IPC-AT): Supporting Local Health Departments in Conducting TeleICARs at Long-term Care Facilities with APIC Consulting Services* project. Our goal as a committed partner organization is to enhance our local health department's infection prevention and control (IPC) capacity to better respond to infection threats, such as COVID-19 and healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), at long-term care facilities (LTCFs).

As a committed partner to the project, we will work with NACCHO and APIC Consulting Services (APIC Consulting), a subsidiary of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), to complete the project activities and deliverables specified in the application instructions, including:

1. Coordinating IPC outreach and assessment efforts with the state health department, particularly the healthcare-associated infection/antibiotic resistance (HAI/AR) program, and as appropriate, other local IPC partners (e.g., academic universities, infection preventionists [IPs], regulatory agencies). Coordination activities include sharing data, prioritizing facilities to not duplicate efforts, and promoting ongoing communication for assessment follow-up.
2. Attending remote online sessions with the APIC Consultant for TeleICAR training and shadowing. These trainings will help LHDs effectively execute the TeleICAR and appropriately follow up with IPC resources and recommendations. The point-of-contact identified in the request for technical assistance will coordinate with APIC Consulting the remote TeleICAR trainings (e.g., training dates, times, tools).
3. Shadowing up to two TeleICARs and leading up to two TeleICARs with facilities in the applicant's jurisdiction. The TeleICAR assessment results will be shared with CDC.
 - a. APIC Consulting will provide tools to assist LHDs in recruiting LTCFs to participate in this opportunity.
 - b. Before conducting the TeleICAR assessments, LHDs will confirm participation of up to four LTCFs and send participating LTCFs the pre-assessment and project requirements, with return instructions. LHDs will also coordinate directly with LTCFs to schedule the TeleICAR assessments. Each TeleICAR will take about four hours and occur remotely (e.g., via Zoom). APIC Consulting will send meeting invitations to LHDs and LTCFs once the dates and times are set.
 - c. Along with each ICAR assessment, a short recap outlining general findings and recommendations will be completed—APIC Consultants and LHDs will manage completion of summary reports for the TeleICARs they lead. These summaries will help identify strengths, gaps, and recommendations across the participating LTCFs. LHDs will return these summary reports to the participating LTCFs.

4. Participating in occasional peer-sharing and technical-assistance calls, facilitated by NACCHO, to review progress of planned activities and share lessons learned.
5. Completing evaluation-related activities to track and measure progress. LHDs will complete two brief electronic post-training surveys (one upon completion of the project and one 90 days later), participate in post-training discussions, and write a final assessment report. The post-training surveys will provide valuable information for improving future IPC-specific trainings for LHDs.

We are dedicated to building infection control and prevention capacity through partnership with NACCHO and APIC Consulting and look forward to continued collaboration with both organizations!

Sincerely,

Eduardo Olivarez, Chief Administrative Officer
Hidalgo County Health & Human Services Department