

## The California Technical Assistance Project (CTAP)

**Project Staff:** Jeffrey Bernstein, Ellen Goldstein, Maricarmen Arjona

**Project Description:** The California Technical Assistance Project (CTAP) is a proactive and responsive technical assistance (TA) program serving California. We provide TA to support HIV prevention and education program design, implementation, and evaluation in California. We are partnering with the California State Office of AIDS (OA) and the University of California, Universitywide AIDS Research Program (UARP) to support the implementation of Evaluating Local Interventions (ELI) in California. ELI is a web-based information system that enables California's prevention providers to systematically collect and access information that is critical to effectively prevent HIV infection. It provides primarily process monitoring and client-based evaluation data on a number of intervention activities (e.g., individual or group-level), and eventually it will provide outcome monitoring data. While OA provides technical assistance (TA) on the use of the ELI system, CTAP provides programmatic TA, including the use of data for evaluation.

Working with OA, CTAP conducts regional trainings to support the use of ELI. Our trainings are, to some degree, client-centered. Participants include program managers, county department staff, community agency administrative and service staff. The CTAP portion of the training focuses on evaluation, including the rationale for collecting data, how to use ELI forms for recording data, and how to use the information generated from ELI to enhance and evaluate programs. In addition to regional trainings, CTAP conducts ELI TA site visits to local health jurisdictions. These site visits provide local health departments and their subcontractors an opportunity for individualized TA such as the review of their scope of work and interventions as reflected in the ELI system.

Through trainings, workshops, and site visits, CTAP aims to help county and community agencies to become "cultures of learning." We respect and build on the innate skills that our participants and agencies bring to these trainings and TA sessions and to their use of the ELI system and collected data. In addition to ongoing trainings and site visits, we provide broad TA through implementation of a TA warmline (phone is staffed by an HIV TA provider, and calls are answered live whenever possible or returned within 48 hours) and distribution of a TA Resource Brochure.

**Project Web Site:** [www.caps.ucsf.edu/CTAP/](http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/CTAP/)

**Project Toll Free Number:** 1-800-983-5550