



**JBS International, Inc.**  
**PII Training and Technical Assistance Project (PII-TTAP)**  
Permanency Innovations Initiative (PII) Contractor Profile: April 2014

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**OVERVIEW:**

The federal Permanency Innovations Initiative (PII) is a 5-year, \$100 million Presidential Initiative designed to support six grantees to develop and implement innovative intervention strategies to reduce long-term foster care stays and improve child and family outcomes. PII includes six grantees, as well as a technical assistance team (PII-TTAP) and an evaluation team (PII-ET) to provide advice and guidance on implementation and evaluation.

**CONTRACTOR OVERVIEW:**

PII-TTAP provides training and technical assistance (T/TA) to the PII Grantees in the implementation and sustainability of innovative and evidence-informed intervention strategies. JBS International, Inc., leads the PII-TTAP team in partnership with the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, and the Center for the Support of Families. These three organizations combine expertise in social services fields, implementation science best practices and theory, development of evidence-based programs, and numerous child and family services initiatives. Our T/TA team includes child welfare practitioners with local, state, and national child welfare experience and expertise to ensure that our TA is applicable to the work of the Grantees and to the field of child welfare.

**PROJECT ROLE:**

The overall goal of PII-TTAP is to support the child welfare system in better meeting the needs of children and families by building and bringing to scale evidence-supported interventions in child welfare. This goal is accomplished by providing innovative yet practical T/TA, building capacity for implementation within PII Grantees through knowledge dissemination, developing tools for effective application and transfer of implementation best practices, and actively coordinating and collaborating in implementation and evaluation activities.

PII-TTAP partners with the Grantees, the Children's Bureau, PII-ET, and the Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation to establish an evidence base to improve the permanency and well-being of children who have the most serious barriers to permanency, such as African American and American Indian children, and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, or transgender youth.

## **PROJECT DELIVERABLES:**

PII-TTAP key project deliverables include:

- T/TA to Grantees
- Peer networking opportunities for Grantees
- New and adapted tools and resources
- Annotated bibliography and literature reviews on strategic planning, leadership, collaboration, organizational and systems change, and implementation science
- Dissemination activities

## **APPROACH:**

The T/TA draws largely on NIRN's active implementation frameworks and uses three main strategies to achieve its objectives.

1. PII-TTAP assists Grantees to choose, develop and/or adapt, and implement interventions based on the needs of the target population(s) most at risk of experiencing permanency barriers. PII-TTAP also assists with analysis of relevant contextual, cultural, and community data for critical intervention development.
2. PII-TTAP ensures that the interventions are developed or adapted through the playful, proactive use of evidence-informed implementation strategies and frameworks. PII-TTAP effectively uses technology to enhance distance and in-person T/TA and peer learning. Our in-person and Web-based anchor training sessions focus on building understanding of implementation science best practices for the Grantees and other PII partners. Our T/TA guides the Grantees to pay attention to sustaining and improving the integrity of the implementation infrastructure so that fidelity, training, coaching, data systems, and systems supports are in place, able to be maintained, and are monitored and improved as necessary.
3. PII-TTAP collaborates intensively with the Grantees, CB, OPRE, and PII-ET at the site level and at the broader initiative level. Our T/TA team participates in local and cross-site evaluation activities, including helping Grantees prepare the interventions for formative evaluation and providing information for PII-ET case studies of each Grantee.

## **EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD:**

PII-TTAP is developing a Web-based toolkit based on the tools and resources used with PII Grantees that will support child welfare administrators in applying the PII-TTAP approach to implement discrete change efforts.

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The Permanency Innovations Initiative Training and Technical Assistance Project (PII-TTAP) is operated by JBS International, Inc. and is funded by the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under contract number HHSP23320095638WC.