

## NOW Innovation Forum MEMBER FAQ

### WHAT IS NOW?

Launched in 2016, **Networks of Opportunity for Child Wellbeing (NOW)** is an initiative of the Vital Village Network at Boston Medical Center and aims to build the capacity of local communities and coalitions working to promote child wellbeing and align early childhood systems of care and education by using a trauma-informed lens to advance equity.

### WHAT IS THE NOW INNOVATION FORUM?

The NOW Innovation Forum brings together **resources, stories, discussions, and other interactive tools** in a central hub, to promote shared learning and networking among communities across the country that are working ensure all children and their families achieve optimal health and wellbeing.

### WHY BECOME A MEMBER?

As a member, you will have the opportunity to:

- **Connect with and learn from** other community coalitions, local leaders, and stakeholders who are leading exciting work to improve the health of children and families;
- **Understand the impact of childhood adversity and adverse community environments** on wellbeing;
- **Share examples of local innovations and strategies** from your own community;
- **Build local community capacity across key levers of community change**, including how to mobilize broader community engagement, foster authentic community leadership, and use data and storytelling tools to measure progress; and
- **Access a wide range of resources and tools** to strengthen your efforts.

### HOW DO I SIGN UP TO BECOME A MEMBER?

To sign up as a member:

- Click the “Log in” button above the navigation bar or the “Members Page” section under “Connect to Now.”
- On the “Sign Up” page, enter your email and password and click “Go.”
- That’s it! You will be directed to your Profile page, where you can update your name, photo, and other settings.

### WHAT CAN FEATURES AND TOOLS CAN I ACCESS AS MEMBER?

The majority of the content on the Forum website is publicly available to all. However, members are able to access the following added features and tools:

- **Create a Profile:** Once you are signed up and sign in as a Member, you can access your Member page, add your profile and cover photos, and update your profile content.

- **Member Directory:** Follow and connect with other members of the NOW Innovation Forum network.
- **Community Forum:** View all posts, follow discussion threads, create your own post, or comment and like member posts.
- **Blog Posts:** Comment or like a blog post. If you are [interested in writing a blog post](#) and have contacted NOW staff or complete the [blog interest form](#), you can be designated as a writer and create your own blog post.

## HOW CAN I RECEIVE EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS ABOUT BLOG POSTS AND COMMUNITY FORUM ACTIVITY?

By default, members do not receive email notifications for any new activity (post, comment or like) on the Community Forum or new Blog posts. This is to ensure that your email inbox is not overwhelmed with all NOW notifications. However, you can update these settings if you'd like to receive all or selected notifications.

### To customize your email notifications:

- Log in as a **Member**. Click on **My Profile**.
- On the bottom left menu bar, click on **Settings**. Select which items you would like to be notified for, including the following:
  - **Blog Subscription:** Receive emails about new posts and updates.
  - **Blog Activity:** Receive emails when members like your posts and comments, comment on your posts, or any updates to members or posts that you have chosen to follow.
  - **Forum Notifications:** Receive emails when members like your posts and comments, comment on your posts, or any updates to members or posts that you have chosen to follow on the Community Forum

### To receive email notifications for specific Community Forum discussion threads:

- Click on the main [Community Forum page](#).
- **Hover over the three-dot symbol** of the discussion topic or thread you are interested in receiving email notifications.
- **Click on the three-dot symbol** and click "Follow Category." You will now receive email notifications for any post, comment, or like activity in this thread.

## WHAT FEATURES AND TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE FORUM?

Featured resources of the NOW Innovation Forum include:

- Searchable Resource Library
- Community Forum - *Member Only Access*
- Member Directory - *Member Only Access*
- Blog Series - *Members can comment or like blog posts.*
- Bright Spot Stories
- Webinar Series
- Podcast Series