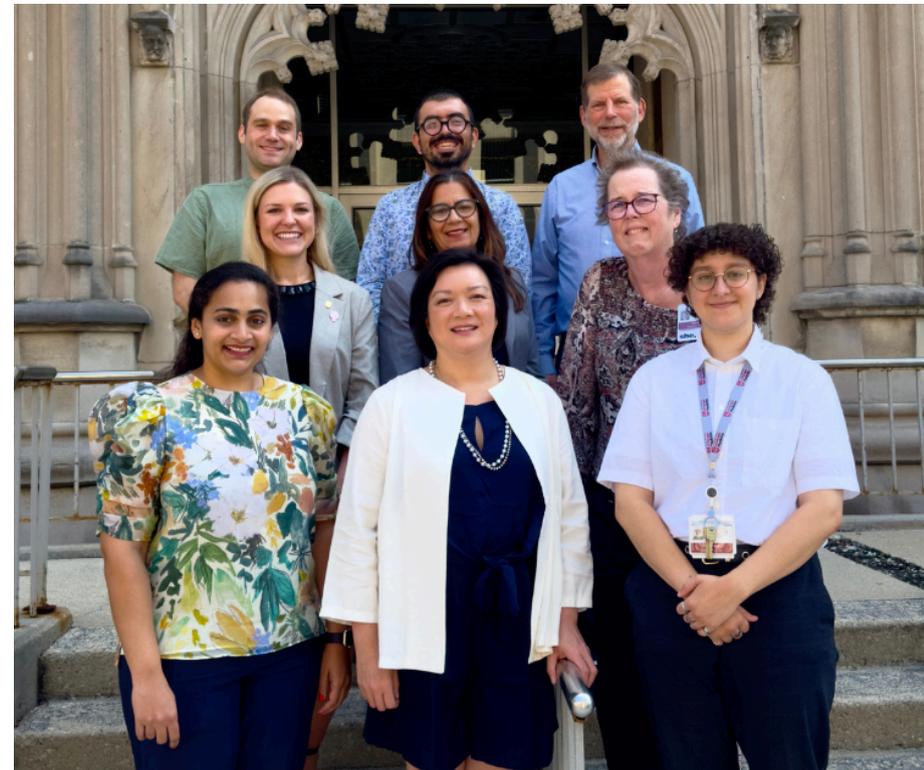




# ANNUAL REPORT FY24

# Mission Statement

*ECHO-Chicago aims to establish and cultivate a robust knowledge network that builds community-based primary care capacity to reduce the serious health disparities affecting children and adults in underserved communities.*



[Click here to learn more about the ECHO-Chicago Team](#)

# LETTER FROM THE TEAM

We are proud to share our FY24 highlights (7/1/2023-6/30/2024), accomplishments and milestones in this annual report. This year, Manuela Ortiz, MPH, joined the team as a Project Coordinator and will be involved in series coordination as well as marketing and recruitment. We look forward to the amazing work we will do together.

ECHO-Chicago collaborates with programs and organizations across Illinois and beyond, to bring advanced training to community healthcare providers and health professionals working with patients and individuals who may be underserved, underinsured, and/or underrepresented. We are so proud of the impact that we achieve through these partnerships.

FY24 saw us reach some important milestones in our mission. Over ECHO-Chicago's 14 years, we surpassed 6,600 unique participants representing more than 1,900 sites of care. This year alone saw 834 unique participants from 381 organizations. Along with other successes and milestones, we also published and presented many abstracts and posters at MetaECHO 2023 and published jointly with our [SHARE Network](#) colleagues the journal article titled Development and implementation of a novel skilled nursing facility certified nursing assistant leadership academy.

We are happy to report that we added new ECHO series, including 4 series focused on suicide prevention. Per the CDC, Illinois had 1,533 deaths by suicide in 2022. ECHO-Chicago saw an opportunity to bring much needed suicide prevention education to healthcare and behavioral health care providers, as well as others such as human resource managers, teachers, and administrators, largely from Illinois. Read more about our Suicide Prevention series later in this report. We also continued to do our COVID work with bi-weekly sessions, and in April 2024, we launched our post-COVID series, which concentrated on addressing post-COVID topics for primary care providers at community health centers.

Thank you to all our partners for their contributions and support in helping us achieve all these accomplishments in FY24. Thank you for reading our report and we look forward to many more successes and milestones to celebrate and share with you in FY25!

-The ECHO-Chicago Team

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Highlights](#)

[Participation](#)

[Series](#)

[Suicide Prevention](#)

[Financials](#)

[Scholarship](#)

[Contact Information](#)

## The Numbers (FY11-FY24)

**44,813**

TRAINING HOURS

**7,034**

SERIES  
PARTICIPANTS

**2,702**

NUMBER OF SESSIONS

**1,950**

CLINICAL SITES OF CARE

**87%**

PARTICIPANTS SHOWED  
IMPROVEMENT IN SELF-EFFICACY

[Click here to view our external dashboard for an in-depth look at our numbers.](#)



# FY24 HIGHLIGHTS

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# Inaugural ECHO Excellence Award



ECHO-Chicago received an Inaugural ECHO Excellence Award at the 2023 MetaECHO Conference in Albuquerque, NM. The award recognizes innovative ECHO programs around the world. Under the leadership of Dr. Daniel Johnson, our Founder and Director of ECHO-Chicago, we proved that while ECHO programming was originally introduced as a method to benefit rural areas, that ECHO could work to improve healthcare delivery in urban neighborhoods. ECHO-Chicago partnered with local federally qualified health centers on the South side of Chicago to implement ECHO. Our program was the second replication of the ECHO model and the first urban focused ECHO program. We are very proud of this accomplishment and grateful to the University of New Mexico for recognizing the important work we did and do.



**Pictured: Dr. Daniel Johnson holding the award with Project ECHO's Dr. Sanjeev Arora and Dr. Karla Thornton**

## New Milestones Reached



**2700<sup>th</sup>  
ECHO SESSION**



**7000<sup>th</sup>  
PARTICIPANT**



**1500<sup>th</sup>  
PARTNER HEALTH CENTER**

## Development and implementation of a novel skilled nursing facility certified nursing assistant leadership academy

"Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) are vital workers in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs)...Given the important role of CNAs in SNFs, providing training and empowerment for CNAs to enact organizational changes within their facilities to support residents and promote better health outcomes can be an important way to address gaps in healthcare for SNF residents, promote age-friendly SNFs, and address social determinants of health. We describe the development and implementation of a novel educational intervention, entitled CNA Leadership Academy, utilizing Project ECHO™ to teach geriatrics principles, QI, and leadership skills to CNAs in SNFs."

- Gleason, L. J., Long, M., Graupner, J., Kroplewski, R., Gower, P., Mittal, K., Johnson, D., & Thompson, K. (2023). Development and implementation of a novel skilled nursing facility certified nursing assistant leadership academy. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.18689>

**[Click here to read the full paper in the \*Journal of the American Geriatrics Society\*](https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.18689)**



# FY24 PARTICIPATION

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# The Numbers

**834**  
UNIQUE  
PARTICIPANTS

**145**  
CASES  
PRESENTED

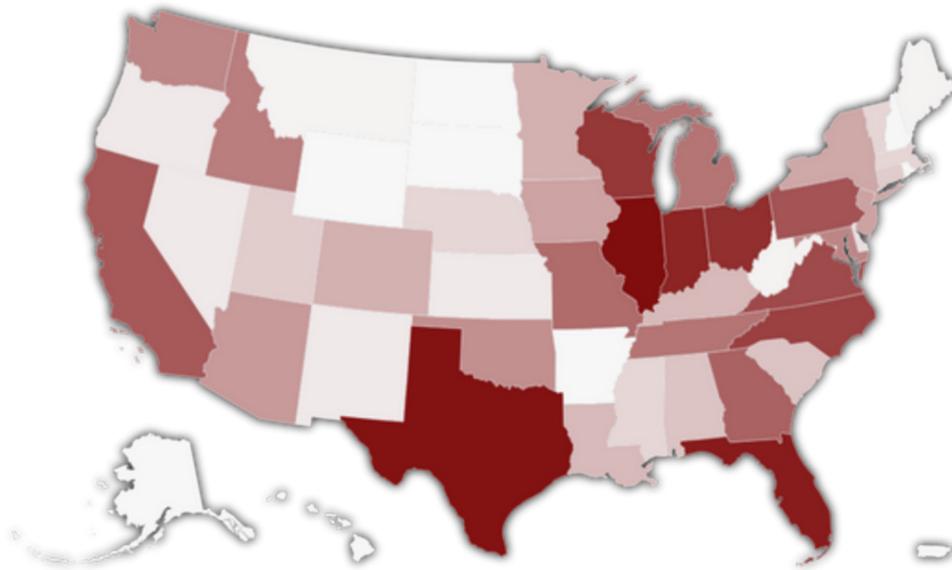
**381**  
ORGANIZATIONS  
PARTICIPATED

**190**  
FIRST TIME  
PARTICIPANTS

**9**  
PARTICIPANT  
COUNTRIES

## Participation by State

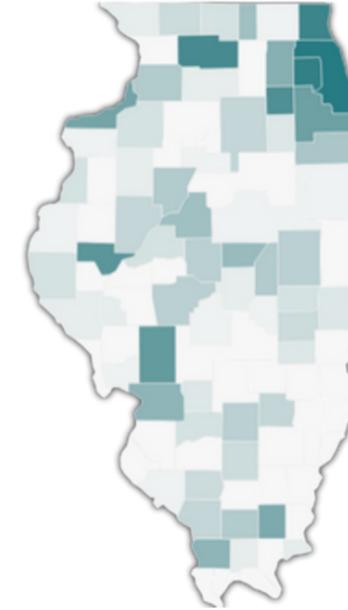
FY24 Participants in the U.S. 0 — 185



FY24 marked ECHO participation from 46 states as well as DC & Puerto Rico. Mouse over to see total number of participants for each state.  
\*Not included in legend: 3572 participants in Illinois.

## Participation by County

FY24 Participants in Illinois 0 — 147



FY24 marked ECHO participation from 80 counties across Illinois. Mouse over to see total number of participants for each county.  
\*Not included in legend: 2565 participants in Cook County.

## Participation by Profession



Total number of participants by role across all FY24 series. Mouse over to see total numbers of each profession.

\*Not included in graph: participation of 228 administrators.  
"Other" includes case managers, clinical pharmacists, medical and nursing assistants, community health workers, and public health professionals.

## Participation by Organization Type



Total number of participants by organization for all FY24 series. Mouse over to see total numbers of each organization type.

"Other" includes pharmaceutical companies, behavioral health organizations, professional organizations, and specialties.

The background features a multi-story building with a mix of brick and stone facades. Some windows are visible, and there are climbing plants on the walls. In the foreground, there are trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and red. A semi-transparent red horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text.

# FY24 SERIES

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Since 2010, ECHO-Chicago's series portfolio has included over 42 topic areas. Each year, we operate a subset of these based on available resources and community needs. In the boxes below, we have listed by categories, the series we offered in FY24. Visit our [website](#) to view all the ECHO-Chicago series topics.

### ADULT-FOCUSED SERIES

IL Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (I-VAC) Learning Collaborative  
COVID-19 for Free and Charitable Clinics  
Geriatrics for Primary Care Providers  
Post-COVID Conditions  
Respiratory Protection Program  
Urinary Incontinence

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-FOCUSED SERIES

Pain Management & Opioid Use Disorder in Older Adults  
Suicide Prevention for Behavioral Health Providers  
Suicide Prevention for Primary Care Providers  
Suicide Prevention in Youth

### PEDIATRIC-FOCUSED SERIES

Complex Pediatric Asthma  
Management of HCV in Infants, Children & Adolescents

### NON-HEALTHCARE-FOCUSED SERIES

Hub Sustainability: An ECHO for ECHOs  
Suicide Prevention in the Workplace



## SERIES SPOTLIGHT: Special Projects

### Respiratory Protection Program

Project Hope and ECHO-Chicago, with funding from the Illinois Department of Public Health, launched the Respiratory Protection Program ECHO series, aimed at supporting long-term care facilities with clinical, engineering, and administrative consultation for the development of a robust Respiratory Protection Program (RPP). This ECHO program aimed to help each facility review their RPP Program Content and provide training, consultation, materials, and supplies to meet compliance with the OSHA RPP standard. As a result, facilities could meet regulatory standards, avoid costly penalties, and improve health outcomes for their staff, residents, and visitors. This program also provided an in-person FIT Test activity for all 113 facilities from which 360 participants were trained.



### Post-COVID Conditions

ECHO-Chicago partnered with AmeriCares to design and launch this new series. With funding from AmeriCares, the team puts primary care providers in the safety net sector in direct contact with a panel of experts who explored relevant topics concerning post-COVID conditions and provided knowledge and tools to effectively identify, diagnose, and manage these conditions in patients. In this bi-weekly series, 117 participants from 93 health centers were trained including 25 nurses, 20 physicians, 10 nurse practitioners, and 7 physician assistants.



“Facilitating this series (Post-COVID Conditions) has been an incredibly enriching experience. It has been a privilege to connect with physicians and allied health professionals from beyond our medical center, exchanging insights and knowledge. The opportunity to learn from a diverse audience spanning multiple states has broadened my perspective and deepened my understanding of patient care.”

- Rasika Karnik, MD, University of Chicago, Lead Facilitator



An aerial photograph of a modern hospital building with large glass windows and a brick structure. A semi-transparent red banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text. The text reads "FY24" followed by "SUICIDE PREVENTION WORK" with a horizontal line underneath. The background shows the building's facade, trees, and a parking lot with several cars.

**FY24**  
**SUICIDE PREVENTION WORK**

This year, ECHO-Chicago launched new programming to address suicide prevention. With funding from the Illinois Department of Public Health and in partnership with NAMI Chicago, the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP), and The Urban Health Initiative at the University of Chicago, we were able to implement four series. Per the [CDC](#), Illinois reports over 1,500 deaths by suicide each year. ECHO-Chicago's work was able to bridge the gap in education across various levels of healthcare professionals. In order to provide better clinical-role specific training, the Suicide Prevention topics were broken out into four different ECHO series. Read below for more details on the specific series.



## Suicide Prevention in Primary Care and Behavioral Health

In October 2023, ECHO-Chicago launched two series, Suicide Prevention for Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and Suicide Prevention for Behavioral Healthcare Providers. The PCP series focused on implementation of evidence-based, patient-centered best practices, with a curriculum covering the nine strategies from the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Comprehensive Approach to Suicide Prevention. The series for behavioral health providers focused on building the skills for assessing suicide risk and providing appropriate treatment. Experts from the University of Chicago (Departments of Psychiatry and Medicine) led both series in collaboration with NAMI Chicago. The first cohorts launched in October 2023 and the second in March 2024. Sessions were held weekly for 10 weeks. Additionally, a list of resources curated by our subject matter experts was made available to all participants. Participants were mostly Illinois-based practitioners with a few from nearby states.

## Suicide Prevention in the Workplace

In April 2024, in collaboration with NAMI Chicago, ECHO-Chicago developed and facilitated a series on Suicide Prevention in the Workplace. It aimed to help employers and development/job readiness professionals working with individuals at risk for suicide recognize and respond to signs of suicidal ideation in those individuals. Sessions were held for 5 weeks and were led by behavioral health specialists at NAMI Chicago. Training focused on providing learners with skills, tools, and resources that would help them become more aware of and promote mental wellness in the workplace. Upon completing the series, participants should be able to recognize when someone may be expressing suicidal behavior, and appropriately intervene, and connect them to services for additional support.

## Suicide Prevention in Youth

In February 2024, ECHO-Chicago in partnership with our own Department of Pediatrics and the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) kicked off its Suicide Prevention in Youth series aimed at training pediatricians, family medicine, and other health care professionals who treat youth to implement evidence-based, patient-centered best practices for assessing suicide risk and providing appropriate treatment based on the risk assessment. Didactics ranged from Suicide Epidemiology and the Zero Suicide Model to Post-acute Care & Transitions. Participants were largely Illinois-based practitioners, but we also had a few practitioners from other states. The series provided a robust list of resources presented at the weekly sessions. Through ICAAP, we were also able to distribute these resources more broadly.

## Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR) and Question.Persuade.Refer (QPR) Trainings

In addition to providing training for healthcare providers, in FY24 ECHO-Chicago supported the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to implement training for K-12 school personnel across the state of Illinois. Through this partnership, we provided two evidence-based suicide prevention trainings – Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR) and Question.Persuade.Refer (QPR). Our goal was to build skills to address suicide across a range of school staff, from educators and counselors to athletic coaches and front office staff. **1,831 school personnel were trained through these AMSR and QPR trainings.**

### The Numbers

Number of sessions

59

Number of health centers

85

Number trained

147

Number of cases

70

“ I joined the Suicide Prevention in Youth series because I am currently working in a school-based health program and encounter many students who speak of struggles with their mental health, when asked. I was looking for ways to evaluate the potential for suicidal ideation as well as how to refer these students for help. I mostly enjoyed learning about different evaluation tools and referral sources for students in crisis. I am now using the PHQ Assessment to perform mental health screenings for students for their school physicals as a starting point to help students open up about their mental health struggles. This series is a great way to engage with experts and colleagues to learn about tools and methods to engage students as well as resources for student referrals via lectures and case studies. ”



– Shari Davis, PA-C, St. Bernard Hospital & Health Center

A wide-angle photograph of the Chicago skyline, featuring the Willis Tower and other skyscrapers. The foreground shows a park with green trees and a baseball field. A semi-transparent red horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'FY24 FINANCIALS'.

# FY24 FINANCIALS

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# Funders for FY24

**ECHO-Chicago extends a sincere thank you to all of our FY24 funders.**

**Your support allows our programs to continue.**

- AmeriCare
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Cyrus Tang Foundation
- Health Resources & Service Administration
- Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Project HOPE
- Dr. Petra Rissman and Randy O. Rissman
- University Hospitals
- University of Chicago Department of Pediatrics
- University of Chicago Provost's Global Faculty Awards
- Urban Health Initiative - University of Chicago

[Click here to donate to ECHO-Chicago](#)

## Expenditures

○ = 1 percent

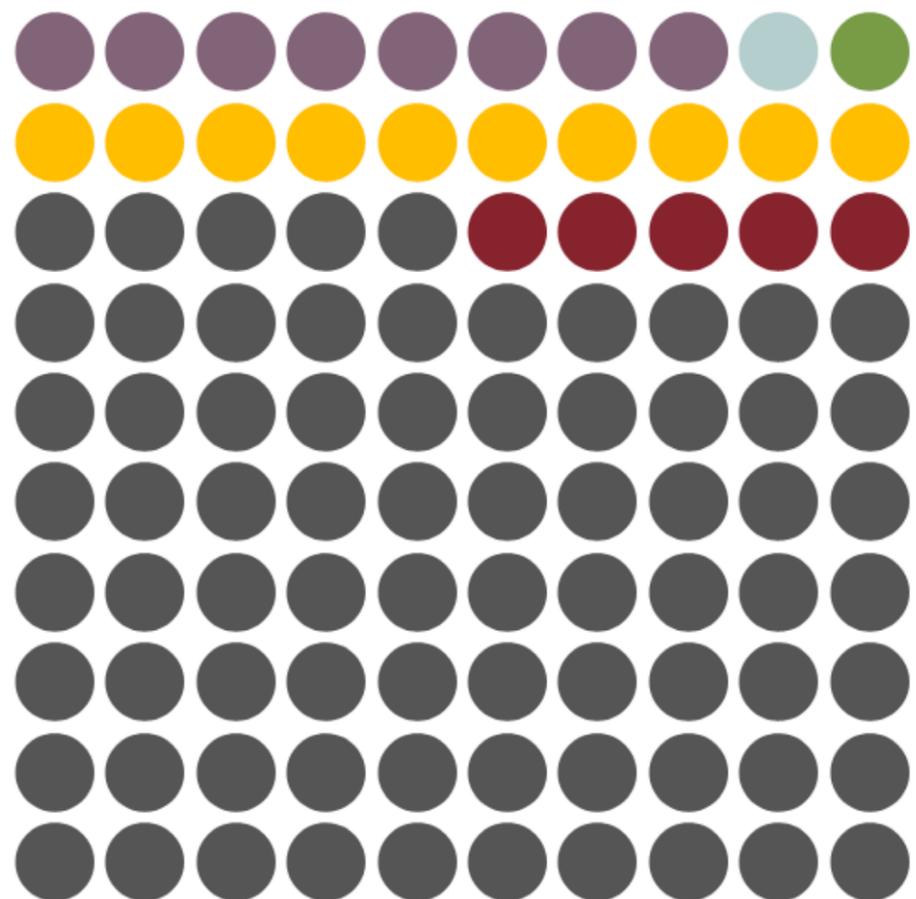
- Program Staff
- Public Health Projects
- Subject Matter Experts
- Contracted Services
- CME
- Superhub Activities
- Professional Development
- Materials



## Funding Resources

○ = 1 percent

- State of Illinois
- Federal
- UChicago
- Foundation and Non-Profit
- UChicago Grant
- Private Donors





# FY24 SCHOLARSHIP

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ECHO-Chicago's experience as an ECHO hub supports the ECHO model's effectiveness. Over the years the team has produced more than 100 abstracts, poster presentations, and oral presentations for local, national, and international conferences as well as peer-reviewed publications. Our FY24 list is below.



## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-reviewed publications in the primary literature, exclusive of abstracts

- Gleason, L. J., Long, M., Graupner, J., Kroplewski, R., Gower, P., Mittal, K., Johnson, D., & Thompson, K. (2023). Development and implementation of a novel skilled nursing facility certified nursing assistant leadership academy. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.18689>

## PRESENTATIONS

### International Meetings

- Johnson D. ECHO-Chicago in China: An Overview. First Pujiang General Practice Forum, The 10th Sino-US Continuing Medical Education Learning Class of General Practice. Shanghai, China (July 13, 2023).

### National Meetings

- Otero S, Mittal K, Lee K, Rodriguez I, Gower P, Hamilton M, Johnson D, Eschliman EL. Incorporating Lifeworld Fidelity into Medical Education Intervention. Poster presented at: Social Mission Alliance 2024. Durham, NC, April 2024.
- Gower P. Making the most of your participation data to support ECHO program operations. Workshop presented at: MetaECHO 2023; September 2023; Albuquerque, NM.
- Tilmon S, Tolentino AG, Otero S, Lee K, Johnson D. Case discussion content in ECHO: A qualitative inquiry across series. Oral presentation at: MetaECHO 2023; September 2023; Albuquerque, NM.
- Beiler J, Fisher A, Gower P, Mason J. Developing ECHO Series for Non-Clinical Providers: Challenges and Lessons Learned. Panel session at: MetaECHO 2023; September 2023; Albuquerque, NM.
- Bond V, Curry M, Johnson D. 'Nothing About Me Without Me': Lessons & Strategies for Incorporating Lived Experience in ECHO. Panel session at: MetaECHO 2023; September 2023; Albuquerque, NN.
- Miller L, Mittal K, Nguyen L. Integrating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Within ECHO Programs. Panel session at: MetaECHO 2023; September 2023; Albuquerque, NM.
- Gower P, Mittal K, Rodriguez I. Brand Identity: Harnessing the Power of Marketing & Recruitment for your ECHO. Panel session at: MetaECHO 2023; September 2023; Albuquerque, NM.
- Lee K, Mason J, McDonnell MM, Todi A. ECHO Staffing Models: Adapting to Changing Needs Over Time. Panel presentation at: MetaECHO 2023; September 2023; Albuquerque, NM.
- Day S, Larson S, Lee K, Medved C. Case Study of Adoption and Implementation of ECHO at Four Academic Medical Centers. Panel session at: MetaECHO 2023; September 2023; Albuquerque, NM.

[Click here for full scholarship list or scan QR code](#)



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