



## Implementation of the Core LAUNCH Strategies in Tribal Contexts— Resources for Tribes

This resource is designed to support Project LAUNCH tribal grantees in implementing the core LAUNCH strategies. It provides relevant resources for each strategy, and showcases examples of how the core strategies were implemented in Project LAUNCH tribal communities.

### ***Family Strengthening***

This core LAUNCH strategy is intended to improve outcomes for young children by supporting parents' ability to provide healthy, safe, and secure family environments in which children can learn and grow. This includes bringing evidence-based parenting support and education programs into communities; training professionals to implement evidence-based programs; expanding the capacities of programs to serve more families; and promoting parent leadership.



### **Programs/Curricula:**

- [Positive Indian Parenting](#) is a curriculum developed in 1987 by the National Indian Child Welfare Association that provides culturally specific training for American Indian and Alaska Native parents.
- [The Parenting Bundle](#). Like a medicine bundle which provides all necessary and sacred items to assist with life journeys, the parent bundle is a culturally based manual of parenting for Indigenous families. This manual was developed by Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health based on child-rearing teachings informed by conversations from Native elders.
- [The American Indian Strengthening Families Program](#). The American Indian Strengthening Families Program is a 14-session, evidence-based parenting skills, children's social skills, and family life skills training program. Parents and children participate in the American Indian Strengthening Families Program both separately and together. Group Leader manuals contain a complete lesson for every session. Parents' and children's handouts are also provided for every session.
- [Family and Children Education \(FACE\)](#). Initiated in 1990 with programs in 44 Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools, FACE was designed as a family literacy program—an integrated model for an early childhood/parental involvement program for American Indian families in Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools. Evaluation indicates that FACE programs are succeeding in addressing achievement gaps for American Indian children primarily located on rural reservations and in better preparing them for school. The goals of the FACE program are to support parents/primary caregivers in their role as their child's first and most influential teacher; to increase family literacy; to strengthen family-school-community connections; to promote the early identification and services to children with special needs; to increase parent participation in their child's learning; to support and celebrate the unique cultural and linguistic diversity of each American Indian community served by the program; and to promote lifelong learning. Program services integrate language and culture in two settings: home and school.

## Publications:

- [Closing the Gap: Cultural Perspectives on Family-Driven Care](#). This document describes “family-driven-care” from four cultural perspectives: Asian, Black, First Nations, and Latino families living in the United States. It highlights the role and importance of incorporating “family culture” as defined by the family in the process of outreach, engaging, and involving families in care.

## Organizations:

- [Native American Fatherhood and Families Association \(NAFFA\)](#) is an Arizona-based nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization that provides programs to strengthen Native American families through responsible fatherhood and motherhood. NAFFA’s programs are designed to help parents take a leadership role in keeping families together. NAFFA offers two curricula: Fatherhood Is Sacred® and Motherhood Is Sacred™ and Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships™.



The **Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium** provides several culturally specific interventions to promote strong families. Gun Lake is using cradle boarding as an opportunity to teach parents and others about security, attachment, and the social-emotional components to early relationships. Baby celebrations are also important cultural events; each year the tribes welcome the new babies to their communities together with a huge celebration. This event provides education for and by families and the communities around social support, child development, and attachment. Nottawaseppi Huron and Pokagon Bands have Parent Groups that work to engage families and create connections in the communities. They are also identifying a family champion in each community who will work to engage other families and create connections throughout the communities. Pokagon Band uses the Parenting Bundle curriculum to educate through culturally relevant programming, and the Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium is using Triple P – Positive Parenting Program to support parents and families.

## *Integration of Behavioral Health into Primary Care Settings*

This core LAUNCH strategy is designed to infuse mental health supports into primary care, and can be implemented at various levels of intensity. This continuum ranges from coordination of care for children and families, to co-location of mental health with primary care services, to an integrated approach that involves strategies such as embedding a mental health consultant into pediatric practices, developing shared treatment plans across physicians and mental health consultants, and implementing shared data systems that integrate behavioral and medical electronic health records.



## Programs/Curricula:

- [Behavioral Health Aide Program](#). The Behavioral Health Aide Program is designed to promote behavioral health and wellness in Alaska Native individuals, families, and communities through culturally relevant training and education for village-based counselors.



## Publications:

- [The National Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda](#). This report, developed through a collaboration among many tribes, organizations, and federal agencies, is designed to serve as a tribal-federal framework for improving the behavioral health of American Indians and Alaska Natives. It describes the purpose and development of the behavioral health agenda and presents an overview of the historical and current contexts of tribal communities to demonstrate the need for tribal-specific behavioral health care considerations. The report further presents strategies to improve health care service systems and behavioral health care in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.
- [Early Childhood Mental Health Toolkit: Integrating Mental Health Services into the Pediatric Medical Home](#). This resource provides a comprehensive set of tools to help service providers develop and integrate early childhood mental health care into primary care. It includes guidance on hiring and training mental health staff, designing early childhood mental health services, improving service integration, and enhancing program sustainability.
- [Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care for Children and Youth: Concepts and Strategies](#). This paper discusses behavioral health and primary care integration in terms of various models of service delivery and provides information about selecting an appropriate model. It also outlines core competencies that are a necessary component of effective integration.
- [A Guidebook of Professional Practices for Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration](#). This report describes the findings from a study that looked at eight primary care organizations with integrated behavioral health and primary care. Effective professional practices that contributed to the organizations' successful integration of behavioral health and primary care are described.
- [Behavioral Health Integration in Pediatric Primary Care: Considerations and Opportunities for Policymakers, Planners, and Providers](#). This report from Carnegie Mellon looks at the challenges to integrating behavioral health care in pediatrics. It provides recommendations for policymakers, providers, and others who are interested in improving health care systems for children.



The **Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)** promote the use of [Reach out and Read](#), a nonprofit organization that supports PCPs in giving children books at well-child visits and encouraging parents to engage with their children around reading. Reach Out and Read is currently being utilized by two pediatric sites. CSKT Project LAUNCH has also partnered with local healthcare providers to develop an educational campaign promoting the provision of compassionate and holistic care to pregnant women who struggle with substance use.

## Enhanced Home Visiting

This core launch strategy is designed to expand and enhance existing home visiting services by increasing the focus on the social and emotional well-being and behavioral health of young children and families served by these programs as well as by increasing the capacities of home visitors to successfully address behavioral health issues that arise in the context of home visiting. By integrating mental health supports into home visiting programs, Project LAUNCH helps to maximize the impact of this evidence-based approach to support the well-being of children and families.



## Programs/Curricula:

- [The Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting \(MIECHV\) program](#) is funded by a three percent set-aside from the larger MIECHV program. It provides grants to tribal organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate home visiting programs in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.
- [Family Spirit Home Visiting Program](#). Family Spirit addresses intergenerational behavioral health problems, applies local cultural assets, and overcomes deficits in the professional health care workforce in low-resource communities. It is the only evidence-based Home Visiting program ever designed for, by, and with American Indian families. It is used in more than 79 tribal communities across 16 states, and it is also used in several other low-income urban environments in Chicago and St. Louis. Strengths of the model include:
  - It leverages cultural assets and an indigenous understanding of health.
  - It encourages the use of paraprofessionals to deliver the program.
  - It addresses behavioral health disparities, emerging globally as an urgent priority.

Family Spirit's culturally tailored intervention is delivered by community-based paraprofessionals as the core strategy to support young parents from pregnancy and birth until their child is three years old. It is a behaviorally focused intervention, responsive to parents' and children's needs.

- [FUTURES Without Violence Home Visitation Safety Cards](#). FUTURES works with home visitation programs to provide domestic violence and child abuse training and education. In addition to promoting collaboration among home visitation, domestic violence programs, and health care providers, FUTURES supports home visitors to more effectively assess and respond to domestic violence and counsel clients on healthy relationships, by providing resources such as the [Women Are Sacred: American Indian/Alaskan Native Safety Card](#) and the [We Are Worthy: American Indian/Alaskan Native Safety Card](#).

## Publications:

- [Empowering Families Through Tribal Home Visiting](#). This issue brief offers examples of promising strategies implemented by Tribal MIECHV grantees that keep home visiting focused on the curriculum while also empowering families to address their needs.
- [A Journey Toward Strong Programs and Thriving Families: A Story of Three Tribal Home Visiting Grantees](#). This brief, developed by the Administration for Children and Families, looks at the impact of the tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (Tribal MIECHV) Program through the lens of three tribal MIECHV grantees' experiences. Created as a result of interviews with the three grantees, the brief provides an overview of the grantees' implementation process and shares some of their successes in carrying out systems-level change.
- [Cultural Enrichments, Enhancements, and Adaptations of Tribal Home Visiting](#). This brief—based on interviews with eight Tribal MIECHV grantees—discusses the importance of cultural enrichments of evidence-based home visiting models; highlights three different approaches Tribal MIECHV grantees have pursued to shape programs to best reflect their communities; and offers guidance for programs that are searching for a way to best fit home visiting within the cultural context of their communities. The brief discusses ways that grantees have approached cultural enrichment in the first five years of the Tribal MIECHV program.



## Websites:

- [The Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness \(HomVEE\) project](#) is a systematic review of home visiting research. To assess the evidence of effectiveness of culturally relevant home visiting models that have been implemented in tribal communities, HomVEE conducted a systematic review focusing specifically on studies relevant to tribal communities.



**Standing Rock Project LAUNCH** trained home visitors in mental health first aid and the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study. They have also provided training in culturally specific curricula, including Positive Indian Parenting and Native Wellness Institute (training series) life skills.

## Screening and Assessment

This core LAUNCH strategy promotes the use of validated developmental and behavioral screening of infants and young children in a range of child-serving settings. Project LAUNCH also supports the well-being of the whole family through efforts that may include screening to identify parental depression or stress, substance abuse, and domestic violence. Screening may be part of a comprehensive assessment process that also includes identifying child and family strengths and resources. Screening can be conducted in primary care, early care and education, school, home visiting, and community settings.



## Publications:

- [Child Safety and Risk Assessments in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities](#). This brief provides background on safety and risk assessments in child welfare practice, reviews the relevant literature, explores the importance of cultural appropriateness in assessments, and provides examples of tribes' adaptations of assessments to fit their communities.
- [Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive! Compendium of Screening Measures for Young Children](#). This reference is a collection of research-based screening tools for children under the age of five intended for practitioners in early care and education, primary health care, child welfare, and mental health. It provides information on cost, administration time, quality level, training required, and age range covered for each screening tool. Summary tables in the compendium include evidence of reliability and validity of each tool for American Indian and Alaska Native children.

## Organizations:

- [Touchpoints and Early Childhood Assessment Professionals](#). Brazelton Touchpoints conducted a statewide study examining how Touchpoints could assist regional diagnosticians in school settings and increase their assessment skills for preschool children with suspected disabilities. The training had a specific emphasis on establishing strong collaborative relationships with families during the assessment process.



**Kickapoo Project LAUNCH** has successfully integrated the Ages and States: Social-Emotional (ASQ-SE2) screening tool into primary care and early education settings throughout the community, including the Kickapoo Nation Health Center, Kickapoo Head Start/Early Head Start, and the Project LAUNCH home visiting program. The ASQ-SE2 encourages families to work with providers to monitor social-emotional growth, celebrate milestones, and screen for behavioral health concerns.

### ***Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation in Early Care and Education***

Infant and early childhood mental health consultation (IECMHC) teams mental health professionals with people who work with young children and their families to improve their social, emotional, and behavioral health and development. This core strategy has a focus on early care and education (ECE) settings, but can also occur in other various child-serving settings, including primary care and home visiting programs. Although mental health consultants do work directly with individual children and families, many of their efforts are intended to build the capacities of ECE providers, programs, and systems to foster young children's development and to prevent or address emotional and behavioral issues.



### **Websites:**

- [Overview of IECMHC within Tribal Communities](#). As one piece of the Center of Excellence for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) Toolbox, this document examines IECMHC in the context of tribal programs, families, and communities. IECMHC in this context takes into account historical traumas experienced by tribal communities and offers questions to consider when implementing such a model, suggestions for how to best engage the community, and resources related to evaluation and research in tribal communities.
- [Key IECMHC Resources for Tribal Communities](#). Also from the IECMHC toolbox, this document compiles evidence-based resources including peer-reviewed articles, books, reports, tools, and videos that offer guidance related to implementation of IECMHC in tribal settings. Works listed take into account seven important values, including indigenous knowledge, respect for tribal sovereignty, and engagement of the community.

### **Publications:**

- [Nurturing Change: State Strategies for Improving Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health](#). This brief presents six state profiles outlining both challenges faced and strategies used in implementation of IECMH in Wisconsin, California, Michigan, Florida, Ohio, and Louisiana. These case studies offer examples of both small-scale and large-scale strategies toward the goal of improving access to and quality of IECMH services, as well as strategic tips that may be utilized in various contexts.



**Passamaquoddy Tribal LAUNCH** utilizes Early Childhood Consultation Outreach (ECCO) consultants from the Community Caring Collaborative to provide ECCO services in both tribal communities. The ECCO model is based on the Georgetown University Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation approach, but it reflects Passamaquoddy traditions and values.



## **Other General Resources:**

### **Programs/Curricula:**

- [Centering Prenatal Care Circles](#). This is a collaboration between Project LAUNCH and Centering Pregnancy, where Project LAUNCH integrates Positive Indian Parenting, integrates Fatherhood Wellness, and is in the process of integrating maternal depression screening. As part of the Centering Pregnancy sessions, a local tribal female elder is invited to provide education about traditional parenting choices. The Project LAUNCH behavioral health support coordinator and family engagement and activities coordinator facilitate the circles.
- [Cultural Competence Approaches to Evaluation in Tribal Communities](#). The federally funded Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families program has supported development of systems of care in 43 states, including eight tribal communities. These eight tribal programs and their common structures and approaches are described, focusing on culturally appropriate assessment instruments and interventions. Evaluation of these programs is also described, including system-level assessment of infrastructure and service delivery, longitudinal outcome study, language and translation issues, and how cultural incongruities between the national and tribal evaluations were handled. Community empowerment was enhanced through extensive, collaborative relationships between the evaluation teams and community-based advisory committees.

### **Publications:**

- [Supporting the Development of Young Children in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities Who Are Affected by Alcohol and Substance Exposure](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services offers recommendations for culturally responsive supports for children in tribal communities who are affected by alcohol or substance use. The policy statement seeks to raise awareness, support existing tribal programs, provide information on evidence-based strategies, and identify resources for tribal communities. The document also includes case studies that exemplify how communities around the country are implementing programs and models designed to meet the needs of their tribal populations.
- [Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in Native Americans](#). This factsheet provides an overview of the scope of the issue among Native Americans and includes resources for more information.
- [A Practical Native American Guide for Professionals Working with Children, Adolescents, and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder](#). This manual provides an overview of FAS and FASD and attendant culturally appropriate guidelines for professionals working with individuals with an FASD. It is organized by specific domains in chronological order that are addressed by professionals. This work was supported by an Indian Health Services (IHS) grant and administered through the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board.
- [New Directions in Tribal Early Childhood Programs](#). This article BY ZERO TO THREE explores the efforts of tribal communities that are building more coordinated and effective early childhood systems by taking advantage of federal opportunities and partnerships.
- [The Roadmap for Collaborative and Effective Evaluation in Tribal Communities](#). This roadmap was released by the Children's Bureau in 2014 as part of its Child Welfare Evaluation Virtual Summit Series to serve as a guide for future research and evaluation. The document outlines relationship-building, knowledge-building, and skill-building priorities to uphold. It is designed for the benefit of various stakeholder groups in order to enhance evaluation and research practice in tribal settings.

- The [American Indian/Alaska Native National Behavioral Health Strategic Plan](#) was compiled by multiple IHS committees and work groups to describe and utilize evidence about behavioral and lifestyle health. The strategic plan acknowledges the importance of situating behavioral health best practices within existing traditions and cultural practices specific to each tribal community.
- [Developing an Effective Approach to Strategic Planning for Native American Indian Reservations](#). This article utilizes the experience of a tribe in Washington State to propose an approach to reservation-planning policy. The proposed approach acknowledges challenges such as state and local laws and encourages alignment with both the tribe's history and its goals for the future.
- [Addressing Trauma in American Indian and Alaska Native Youth](#). This environmental scan, conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, describes interventions utilized in American Indian and Alaska Native communities to serve youth suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, suicidal tendencies, and other effects of historical trauma. The document summarizes interventions and describes results from limited evaluations of these programs.

#### **Organizations:**

- [The Tribal Evaluation Institute](#). TEI's mission is to help Tribal Home Visiting Program grantees build capacity in gathering, using, and sharing information to improve the health and well-being of children and families. This website makes TEI technical assistance resources available to a broader audience of tribal program staff, community members, and professionals who partner with tribal communities.
- [The Tribal Early Childhood Research Center](#). The TRC seeks to partner with American Indian and Alaska Native communities, programs, practitioners, and researchers to advance research into young children's development and early childhood programs and to facilitate the translation of research findings to inform early childhood practice with American Indian and Alaska Native children and families. The TRC also hosts the [Native Children's Research Exchange conference](#), which provides a forum for researchers, evaluators, and tribal program and community partners to gather and share in an open exchange of information and ideas about their shared work and commitment to Native children's development prenatally through early adolescence.
- [Indian Country Child Trauma Center](#). The Indian Country Child Trauma Center (ICCTC) was established to develop trauma-related treatment protocols, outreach materials, and service delivery guidelines specifically designed for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and their families. The ICCTC was originally funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in 2004 with the goal to develop and deliver training, technical assistance, program development, and resources on trauma informed care to tribal communities. It is housed at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. The ICCTC has been awarded the Project Making Medicine grant from the Children's Bureau to provide training to clinicians in Indian Country in the Honoring Children, Mending the Circle curriculum, which is the cultural enhancement of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. ICCTC is also the grantee for the OJJDP Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance program.
- [National Native Children's Trauma Center](#). As a Category II Treatment and Service Adaptation Center within the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, the Center's focus is on increasing service providers' ability to respond to the trauma-related needs of American Indian/Alaska Native children and youth in culturally appropriate ways.