



Tribal: Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Native American Professional Parent Resources, Inc.

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Three percent of funds for the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting, or MIECHV, program are set aside annually for meeting the needs of Native American families living in tribal communities. The Tribal MIECHV program provides funding to the Native American Professional Parent Resources, Inc., or NAPPR, a nonprofit tribal organization providing services to Native American families in the urban Albuquerque, New Mexico area and surrounding communities. NAPPR uses MIECHV funding to provide evidence-based home visiting services, as well as to strengthen and expand the tribal organization's capacity and to build the administrative infrastructure needed to facilitate a new family support program within tribal communities. MIECHV funds are the exclusive source of funding for NAPPR's tribal home visiting program and have given the organization a unique opportunity to improve outcomes for children and families in tribal communities.

Success and innovation

Parents as Teachers adaptation for tribal language and culture

NAPPR selected the Parents as Teachers, or PAT, evidence-based home visiting model, which is a flexible model that can be adjusted to best meet the needs of a tribal community by integrating cultural and linguistic adaptations into the curriculum. Some of the adaptations include:

1. Providing language and cultural trainings for staff
2. Hiring a language and culture coordinator
3. Purchasing parenting items that are traditional to the tribe and incorporating other traditional birth practices



NAPPR MIECHV at a glance

**Total federal
MIECHV funding:**
\$655,000 in current formula
grant funding

Lead agency:
NAPPR

**Number of
communities served:**
three counties in New Mexico

**MIECHV-funded
home visiting models:**
Parents as Teachers, or PAT

Families served: NAPPR is
funded to serve 100 families

**Additional funding
for home visiting:**
NAPPR also administers an
Early Head Start, or EHS,
home-based program

4. Conducting a language capacity assessment on intake in order to combat tribal language loss
5. Promoting community involvement activities and creating a strong network of tribal community supports
6. Enhancing PAT parent and child activities with cultural and linguistic adaptations

NAPPR also designed programs specific to Native American teen parents, Native American grandparents raising grandchildren, and Native American fathers, in order to tailor the home visits to the needs of the caregivers. NAPPR administrators stated that the flexibility to incorporate these adaptations to the PAT model allowed NAPPR to best meet the language and cultural needs of the tribal populations and made the families more eager to enroll in the program.

Circle of Security

NAPPR serves a population that has experienced historical trauma and violence. To interrupt the effects of this trauma, NAPPR administrators chose to implement the evidence-based Circle of Security, or COS, curriculum within the home visits. COS is an early intervention visual-based program used to help parents create secure attachments with their children. As parents learn the skills to recognize and respond sensitively to their child's needs, problematic attachment patterns often passed down through generations are suspended, allowing the children to form more healthy relationships throughout their lives.

Challenges

To address high staff turnover rates, NAPPR administrators revised the home visitor job description and changed recruitment methods to find staff better equipped to deal with issues specific to the tribal populations. NAPPR also enhanced the professional development system to better support home visitors by implementing new trainings, instituting high-quality reflective supervision, and receiving direct training and support from the PAT national model.

NAPPR had limited capacity to conduct the evaluation and data collection required of MIECHV grantees through the creation of the data benchmark plans. Administrators also found it challenging to define performance measures that would be most meaningful to their specific programs and population. It took the program administrators a great deal of time, effort, and technical assistance to understand and develop a comprehensive list of performance measures for evaluating the home visiting program.

Identified risks targeted by MIECHV: improving birth outcomes for pregnant women; promoting school readiness; and providing culturally appropriate services to Native American families

Looking ahead

Improve enrollment and retention of families

NAPPR is now fully staffed and believes the infrastructure built to support the training and professional development needs of the home visitors will allow the organization to retain staff in the future. NAPPR expects that improved staff turnover rates will lead to more retention of families in the program, as families would often prematurely exit the program if their regular home visitor left the program. The organization created an outreach plan that all staff are expected to assist in implementing. NAPPR also determined how many referrals were needed per month to reach the target enrollment.

Revise and enhance benchmark plan

NAPPR administrators faced challenges in creating the original data benchmark plan and currently wish to revise it. With more time and capacity—and a more robust understanding of the process—administrators are confident they can select performance measures that will more adequately reflect their home visiting program and the outcomes they hope to achieve, while simplifying the data collection process.

Additional information

NAPPR's MIECHV program: <http://www.nappr.org/home>

For a copy of NAPPR's MIECHV Needs Assessment or State Plan, please contact Maria Brock at MBrock@nappr.org.

Source: Interview with Maria Brock, tribal home visiting director, Native American Professional Parent Resources, Inc., September 2014.

“The encouragement and flexibility within the Tribal MIECHV grants to incorporate language and culture makes families want to sign up and makes the staff proud. It incorporates all of who they are.”
– NAPRR MIECHV home visiting director

This profile was written as part of a larger study to identify how states are using Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting, or MIECHV, funds to advance state home visiting systems. For a summary report and additional profiles about home visiting, visit clasp.org or americanprogress.org.