An Evidence-Based Approach to Strengthening American Indian/Alaska Native Communities

Parents as Teachers has a long history of producing health, school readiness and parent engagement outcomes in Tribal communities. The federal Tribal Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program calls for successful implementation of high-quality, culturally-relevant home visiting programs that have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness in Tribal settings—goals almost identical to those of the Parents as Teachers model. Tribal Home Visiting Program goals are to be reached through a coordinated, high-quality, evidence-based and culturally relevant home visiting strategy.

Why Parents as Teachers

Over the past 20 years, the Parents as Teachers model has been adapted and delivered in more than 100 Tribal communities in the U.S. During this time, more than 10,000 Native American families have been served by Parents as Teachers.

More than half of the today’s federal Tribal Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Tribes have chosen Parents as Teachers as their preferred home visiting model, citing the organization’s history of working with American Indian and Alaskan Native families.

What Parents as Teachers Brings

Scale and scope

With a nationwide network of affiliates and a staff of technical assistance consultants to call on, Parents as Teachers is well positioned to support home visiting efforts in every state and is currently providing services to Native communities throughout ten states, with 20 different tribes in 70 tribal communities.

One reason Parents as Teachers has met with success is due to local control. It is American Indian urban organizations and Tribes that determine how to structure their own plans; Parents as Teachers provides guidance and technical assistance to support those plans.

Experience with federal programs

Parents as Teachers is skilled in working with federal programming, including budgets, regulations, guidelines and reporting. Some past and current federal projects include:

- Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program—Health Services and Services Administration
- Investing in Innovation—Department of Education
- Family and Child Education—Bureau of Indian Education
- Promoting Responsible Fatherhood—Department of Health and Human Services
- Supporting Military Families—Department of Defense
- Environmental Education Program—Environmental Protection Agency

Expected Outcomes

The Parents as Teachers approach is personal and relationship-based. Our work with Tribal programs outside the MIECHV program has yielded high results.

- Parents are highly engaged with the school system—even those without children!
- The number of children transitioning into kindergarten with an IEP was the lowest since 2005.
- The immunization rate for 2-year-olds is higher than the national average, and 80 percent of the children have regular medical checkups.
- Almost all families use car seats.
Parents as Teachers works with American Indian and Alaska Native communities in these states through Investing in Innovation grants; Tribal Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program; Indian Head Start; Tribal Parents as Teachers programs; and a contract with the Bureau of Indian Education.