



Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH

Cohort 4, Funding Period 2012–2017

<http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/>

Grantee Overview

Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH of Oklahoma is located in the northeastern region of the state and spans 7,200 square miles—comparable to the state of New Jersey—with 11 counties in its jurisdictional boundaries. The geography is characterized by rural areas, small towns, and a large urban area (Tulsa), which is located on the northern border. Substantial portions of the Muscogee Creek Nation’s service area are impoverished and underserved. Although some of the Muscogee Creek Nation tribal members live in moderate proximity to affluent areas, they remain functionally isolated from mainstream society due to cultural, economic, social, justice, and educational barriers. Muscogee Creek Nation tribal members are a community within a community—a culture within a culture. The current population, including members of other tribes residing within the Muscogee Creek Nation service area, is around 85,000. Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH seeks to build a comprehensive and integrated system of care that will advance the delivery of services, practices, and cultural experiences that promote the wellness of young American Indian children and their families within the area served by the tribe.

Project Milestones

All [Project LAUNCH](#) grantees implement promotion and prevention strategies intended to increase access to high-quality prevention and promotion services for children and families. In Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH, these five strategies are implemented through the following activities:

- **Screening and Assessment:** Ongoing screenings and assessments are being conducted in a variety of settings within the selected service area of Muscogee Creek Nation. Settings include tribal clinics, hospitals, behavioral health sites, schools, community centers, early childhood centers, and Head Start centers. Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH staff use an electronic version of the [Survey of Well-being of Young Children](#) (SWYC) via the iPad Patient Tools application.
- **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation:** Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH’s two half-time consultants provide early childhood mental health consultation (ECMHC) to tribal Head Start classrooms and child care centers on an as-needed basis. Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH also developed an ECMHC protocol and hosted a training for Head Start staff on consultation and referrals for treatment services.
- **Enhanced Home Visiting:** Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH enhances existing home visiting services by collaborating with tribal programs and community agencies. To support these services, Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH offers training in evidence-based practices and creates and distributes educational and promotional materials for the services. In addition, Muscogee Creek

Nation Project LAUNCH convenes a home visiting alliance for participating home visiting programs. Alliance members participate in trainings, such as training on the use of the SWYC, an introduction to infant massage, how to coordinate services with the state-wide [ParentPro](#) parenting support program, and [The Happiest Baby](#) on the Block Program – How to Calm a Baby Using the 5 S's. The alliance has also been working on a marketing campaign to promote home visiting programs across the state. Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH has been partnering with Cherokee Nation Project LAUNCH to plan and host a home visiting leadership summit in the summer of 2016.

"One of our staff recently attended a large family gathering. During the meal, an 8-year-old niece, without being prompted said, 'A counselor came to our school this week and told us that some people get very sad. And sometimes they believe that nobody loves them. She said to tell our teacher or our family if we get sad.' We have the 8-year-olds saying the right things!"

—Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH

- **Integrating Behavioral Health into Primary Care:** Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH is working on promoting the use of an electronic version of the SWYC screener within their tribal health clinics by partnering with their information technology department to create a form that can be integrated into its electronic medical record system, NextGen. Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH provides *Lunch and Learn* sessions for the tribal health clinics on issues such as social-emotional development, managing behavior, and developmental milestones. Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH is active in the promotion of the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures parent handouts that provide information on children's well-child visits, developmental stages, safety and prevention, family life, and health issues.
- **Family Strengthening:** Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH is offering the [Incredible Years](#) program to families, schools, and children to support young children's relationships with their parents and other primary caregivers. Project staff have been trained in the Parent and Teacher Program, and parenting groups are currently underway. The [Incredible Years Small Group Dinosaur Program](#) for children was also provided in Okmulgee. To date, 28 [Muscogee \(Creek\) Nation Head Start](#) teachers have been trained in the Incredible Years Teacher Program, which involves 40 hours of training over five days. Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH offers infant massage classes in small groups or one-on-one sessions, and is involved in many community events throughout the year, such as community baby showers, children's mental health day, and child abuse prevention month.

"We had 100 people attend our two-part series of Autism and Sensory Processing Training. We had 50 people attend our training on working with children who have been affected by trauma in Indian country. The continued interest and participation in these community trainings tell us that we have professionals and community members that are very interested in seeking knowledge on how to help our children develop in safe and supportive environments."

Systems Integration

Project LAUNCH is intended to improve coordination and collaboration across systems that serve young children and their families. Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH has made connections with the state of Oklahoma and collaborates on implementation of ECMHC. These measures have paved the way for

future collaboration opportunities. Planning/collaboration meetings are regularly scheduled with Muscogee Creek Nation, Cherokee Nation, and the state of Oklahoma Project LAUNCH programs.

Grantee-Developed Materials

Click on the following links to access information about grantee-developed resources:

- [Project LAUNCH Postcard](#): Describes the services available to native families through Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH, including contact information.
- [Developmental Screening Flyer](#): Describes the benefits of screenings for young children and provides families with information about how to access screening through Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH.
- Radio Advertisements: These ads are shared on local radio stations to promote services available to native families through Muscogee Creek Nation Project LAUNCH, including [Incredible Years parent education](#), [infant massage class](#), [Creek County baby showers](#), and [Parent Pro home visiting program](#).

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