



Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Project LAUNCH

Cohort 5, Funding Period 2013–2018

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Grantee Overview

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Project LAUNCH works to expand and enhance local systems of care by implementing a variety of evidence-based practices, promising practices, culture-based and effective practices for early childhood and Native American populations. The Standing Rock Sioux Reservation is situated in North Dakota and South Dakota, covers 2.3 million acres, and is the fourth largest land-based tribe in the United States. The people of Standing Rock, often called Sioux, are members of the Dakota and Lakota nations; “Dakota” and “Lakota” mean “friends” or “allies.” The goal of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Project LAUNCH is to increase resiliency and positive outcomes for young children ages birth to 8 years and their families.

Project Milestones

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

- **Screening and Assessment:** Early developmental screening of children in the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe occurs in nine Head Start classrooms across the reservation, two of which collaborate with a mental health consultant to support these efforts. Head Start staff are being trained in the [Family Connections](#) mental health consultation model and [Social Skills Improvement System \(SSIS\)](#) assessment, including implementation, reading results, integration of intervention strategies using the SSIS guide, and implementing social–emotional support strategies. Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Project LAUNCH is working with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, Early Childhood Tracking, and Indian Health Services to consider integrating mental health support into their monthly clinic visits. These visits focus on screening and support for prenatal care and new mothers and offer a potential opportunity to screen for postpartum depression and other mental health concerns. Project LAUNCH presented to the Standing Rock Consortium for Children and Families, which consists of nine schools, administration, teachers, counselors, staff, and nine Head Start centers, and discussed the importance of social–emotional screening and support in the school system and the use of the SSIS screening tool.
- **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation:** Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Project LAUNCH uses the [Family Connections](#) mental health consultation model to collaborate with local Head Start programs and with parents to support healthy social and emotional development of young children. A mental health consultant conducts classroom observations—looking at structure, parent involvement, and behavior in the classroom—and collaborates with teachers and parents. This process helps engage and connect families to the Head Start programs and to other services in the communities.

- Enhanced Home Visiting:** In efforts to increase an understanding of the needs of the workforce, Standing Rock Project LAUNCH conducted a training needs assessment with home visitors and other early childhood service providers. As a result, home visitors in one community were trained in [mental health first aid](#), and 14 family service workers/home visitors were trained on the [Adverse Childhood Experiences Study](#). Training in Positive Indian Parenting, Native Wellness Institute (training series) life skills, healthy relationships, adults working with youth, and wellness in the workplace were also provided. Other trainings have included program partners, providing increased understanding of 960 reporting (suspected child abuse or neglect), historical trauma, and drug awareness for parents. These trainings are part of the workforce development initiative for program partners.
- “Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.”*
Wakhányeža kiŋ lená épi čha táku
waštéšte iwíčhunŋkičiyukčanpi kte
 – Sitting Bull
- Integrating Behavioral Health into Primary Care:** Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Project LAUNCH is working with and supporting Indian Health Services to incorporate scheduled appointments with a designated physician—rather than walk-in health visits—to offer continuity of care to families. In addition to the primary care setting, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Project LAUNCH identified the WIC program as a strong link in all three communities, as many mothers access WIC with their infants and young children. To increase knowledge and awareness of services, behavioral health issues, and decrease the stigma related to accessing mental health services, Project LAUNCH is working to support WIC in implementing [Reach Out and Read](#) and exploring social-emotional screening with participating families.
 - Family Strengthening:** Standing Rock Project LAUNCH is taking a “family champions” approach to support and share information with families about child development, resiliency, social support, language and culture, and protective factors. This approach includes contracting with a family member within each of the districts who is passionate about the wellness of children and families, training these individuals to provide education from multiple curricula to work with families, and then going out to meet and share with families in their everyday lives at public events such as pow wows, health fairs, and community gatherings. The Standing Rock Project LAUNCH team is developing a detailed resource guide of early childhood services and activities available to families to support them in nurturing /promoting? Used supporting already in this sentence their children’s wellness.

Systems Integration

Project LAUNCH is intended to improve coordination and collaboration across systems that serve young children and their families. Recently, Standing Rock developed a reservation-wide family and youth consortium, which includes representation from service providers, health and education agencies, community members, and other stakeholders to coordinate and support the health and wellness of its tribal members. The Project LAUNCH Young Child Wellness Council is a part of this larger effort and brings focus to the issue of early childhood.

Grantee Events and Materials

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

Monthly radio program (45–60 minutes) on early childhood issues on a local radio station, and discussion of a variety of topics, including:

- [Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder \(ADHD\)](#)
- [Centering Prenatal Care](#)
- [Computer and Technology Security with Children](#)
- [Healthy Relationships](#)
- [Pregnancy and Prenatal Development](#)
- [Self-Esteem in Children](#)
- [Social–Emotional Health](#)
- [Stress and Mental Health](#)
- [Suicide Prevention in Youth and Teens](#)
- [Suicide Prevention](#)

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