



# Center for Native Child and Family Resilience

## Project Opportunity

---

### Description and Overview of the Center

Sponsored by the [Children’s Bureau](#), the **Center for Native Child and Family Resilience** (the Center) is a partnership between [JBS International, Inc.](#), the [Tribal Law and Policy Institute](#), and [Mathematica Policy Research](#). The Center gathers and disseminates information about Tribally relevant practice models, interventions, and services that contribute substantively to child maltreatment prevention efforts and family resilience developed by and for American Indian and Native Alaskan populations. We also provide technical assistance and capacity building services and support to organizations working in Indian Country to develop, adapt, or expand these programs.

The Center is supported by a team of experts with experience and understanding in the areas of Tribal program development and Tribal community prevention efforts. This team includes individuals with knowledge in the areas of child welfare prevention and intervention programs, which support and strengthen family and community resilience. The team members have been identified and chosen for their experience and knowledge in the field and share their expertise in support of the work of the Center.

### *Guiding Vision*

Many prevention and intervention models in Indian Country build resilience by using Tribal cultural values, the transmission of family traditions, and the experiences of Tribal youth. Guided by these values, traditions, and experiences, Tribal communities have shown great promise in developing resilience-based models for child abuse prevention. The experiences of Tribal communities suggest that these approaches are often effective in enhancing family resilience and reducing the risks of harm to children and adults—yet rarely have these strategies used collaborative community-based evaluation to demonstrate their effectiveness.

As part of a Children’s Bureau project to raise awareness of Tribally engaged prevention and intervention efforts, the Center supports and enhances resilience-related approaches to Tribal child welfare by supporting Tribes in developing and building evidence-based standards of care. The Center embraces the unique opportunity to honor these valiant community efforts that improve Native family resilience and to help empower Tribal communities of care by using culturally engaged, community-based evaluation models to demonstrate the effectiveness of these efforts and disseminate Native solutions to the field.

### *Goals*

The Center will partner with applicants to examine solutions for healing the ongoing family trauma persisting in the aftermath of the numerous historical injuries shared by many Tribal communities, including the break-up of Indian families and child removal.

The Center works in partnership with Tribal communities to:

- Honor effective Tribal community and practice-based models of prevention;

- Promote awareness and use of culturally relevant child maltreatment prevention services that are supported by practice-based evidence in Tribal child welfare systems;
- Improve holistic services for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children affected by child abuse and neglect;
- Develop models of cultural, community, and trauma resilience;
- Build the evidence-base of Tribal child welfare knowledge and practice through evaluation; and
- Transfer knowledge from project findings to the field.

## **Center Roles and Responsibilities**

### ***Overview of Major Tasks***

The Center has conducted a *Literature Review* that examines the peer-reviewed academic literature that discusses the programs and practices that have been used in Tribal communities to confront and solve child maltreatment. It includes an emphasis on Tribally owned and internally developed practices, practices that have undergone cultural adaptation, and evidence-based practices that show promise for cultural adaptation.

The Center is in the process of finalizing an *Environmental Scan* dedicated to identifying Tribally-owned and cultivated efforts, programs and demonstrations of innovation cultural and practice-based strategies that are improving the lives of Tribal children and families in Indian Country that might not be described in the academic literature. The results of the Environmental Scan will inform a publicly available Compendium of programs and models that exist in Indian Country.

### ***Build Capacity***

It is the responsibility of the Center to work with the Tribe or organization where the project is occurring, and the subject matter experts chosen from the Workgroup members (based on their expertise and the project site's needs) to develop a capacity building plan to fit the specific needs of the Tribe. The Center will offer support and assistance to the sites through intensive training, technical assistance and capacity building to strengthen the infrastructure required to implement and evaluate services or models at the selected sites.

As informed and facilitated by Native scholars, community-based evaluation must offer a model or strategy that has potential to benefit Tribal communities. Evaluation methods will employ principles of cultural safety and social justice, in an organic partnership with the community. As a result, community efforts will contribute to the promotion of tribal family wellness and healing. The Tribal community will lead the effort of “telling their story” of growing prevention strategies which ultimately may be useful in other communities. This will allow other communities, particularly indigenous communities, to engage in a learning model of service, intervention, and prevention that might lend itself to the replication of family resiliency efforts in other Tribal communities.

## **Project Opportunity**

This is an invitation to collaborate with other Tribal-serving organizations and agencies with a common vision of building and growing their prevention/intervention programs. The Center believes that all organizations bring a unique vision, strengths, and gifts in support of the enrichment of child and family resiliency in Indian Country. The Center encourages organizations that impact child, family, or community resilience to apply. This includes:

- Existing Tribally based prevention programs focused on the enrichment of child and family resiliency in Indian Country;

- Existing Tribally based intervention programs focused on the enrichment of child and family resiliency in Indian Country; and
- The development of new Tribally based programs focused on prevention or intervention of child maltreatment in Indian Country.

## **Expectations of Applicant**

From the pool of applicants, approximately 10-12 applicants will be selected<sup>1</sup> to participate in onsite community readiness and program evaluability assessments to assist the Center in learning more about applicants' programs. Guided by a storytelling approach that centers the Tribal community as the expert in their own history and development, the Center will partner with Tribal communities to assist them in taking stock of programmatic inputs, activities, and outcomes; identifying data collection data systems currently in place; and understanding the evaluation capacity of the program and the broader community. This process is ultimately driven by locally-defined practices and priorities in research and evaluation.

Based on the knowledge gleaned from these assessments, 2-5 applicants will be selected to participate in the full model/program evaluations (see below). Those not chosen will receive a Summary Report detailing the various dimensions of readiness and strengths and barriers for each. The report will also detail the program components, their key strengths and areas for capacity building in relation to evaluability; it will also include resources for capacity building. In addition, they may have the opportunity to participate in constituency calls designed to build implementation and evaluative capacity.

## **Opportunities for Collaboration to Build on and Develop Resilience Based Models**

The 2-5 applicants chosen for the entire project will participate in full model/program evaluations. Efforts will focus upon increasing the effectiveness and transfer of knowledge to Tribal communities of practice. Owing to the troubling legacy of research and evaluation in Indian Country, whereby third-party evaluators have customarily “faded in and faded out” of Tribal communities with minimal (if any) engagement of the community itself, the Center seeks to empower Tribal communities to take ownership and control of their own assessment and evaluation activities. The Center will provide a comprehensive menu of capacity building services, including:

- Access to Tribal expertise in knowledge development, specifically in Tribal research
- Access to expertise in Tribally based prevention, intervention and evaluation
- Onsite an in-person support in project planning and implementation
- Capacity Building support and services
- Consultation and support in submission to evidence-based registry
- Sustainability Planning
- Access to concrete and time-limited funds to use (e.g., database development, training, materials, curriculum, data collection, education, specialized certification, etc.)

## **Eligibility**

The Center understands that innovative and creative thinking can occur in many contexts. To ensure inclusivity of the project, we invite expressions of interest from range of Tribal-serving organizations, including:

- Native American and Alaska Native Tribes

<sup>1</sup> Applicants not chosen to be part of the 10-12 may have the opportunity to receive access to tools and resources and/or participate in constituency calls designed to build implementation and evaluative capacity.

- Urban Indian Centers (non-profit)
- Alaska Native Regional or Village Corporations
- Community-based Indigenous organizations
- American Indian/Alaska Native programs
- Tribal Organizations (non-profit)
- Native Corporations

## **Project Duration**

The initial group of 10-12 sites will be identified by November 15, 2018. All interested applicants should be prepared to participate in a community readiness and program evaluability assessment to be conducted between November 15, 2018 and March 31, 2019. Following the evaluability and readiness assessment, 2-5 projects will be identified and proposed to the Children's Bureau to be considered for approval as a Center project. The services of the Center, as well as the full evaluation, will be conducted between May 1, 2019 and September 29, 2022.

## **Application Review Process**

Applications are due on or before midnight PST on **October 31, 2018**. All applications must be sent via email to [cncfr@jbsinternational.com](mailto:cncfr@jbsinternational.com). All applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts in Native child and family resilience with a wealth of knowledge and experience in child welfare and knowledge of implementation of service models within Native communities.

Questions pertaining to this solicitation may be sent at any time prior to the closing date of October 31, 2018, to [cncfr@jbsinternational.com](mailto:cncfr@jbsinternational.com). In addition, any questions received (with identifying information removed) and the corresponding answer will be posted on the Center website.