

TRIBAL EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE GRANTEE PROFILE

Grantee:	Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
Project Period:	<i>September 30, 2015 –September 29, 2017</i>

Tribal Early Learning Initiative (TELI) Collaborative Team:

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Program Goals and Activities

- The ultimate goal of the ITCMI TELI project is to improve and increase the positive impact of our services on families. By virtue of multiple disciplines, variety of services and structures involved, development and improvement of an early childhood system is by definition a: Collective Impact” undertaking. Based on our Needs Assessment data, we have envisioned an Early Childhood system which is: a) comprehensive in providing supports and services across the full range of needs from the prenatal period through kindergarten entry; b) high quality, operationalizing the state of the art in what is known about supporting young children in their development; c) reflects and builds on the strengths and wisdom of tribal community values and culture; d) maximizes use of resources to foster efficiencies, yielding maximum impact for each investment, and ensures sustainability and consistency; e) is easy to access at the community level, with easy “warm hand off” referral and transition processes in place at the local level, and which effectively engages parents as key stakeholders, building community ownership and in-kind investment in caring for the next generation. Many different entities need to work together to make progress toward realization of this vision. Among the tribal communities that ITC of MI serves, there is currently variation in where systems and services are along the path toward this vision. Through TELI, we hope to do what we can at the central administrative/support level and to facilitate changes that can be made at the local level as well to foster further progress toward realization of this vision.



Community Context

State	Michigan
Rural or Urban Reservation or Non-Reservation	Rural Reservation and Urban Non-Reservation
Geographic Area, Characteristics, Demographics	The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCM) distributes funding to seven implementing sites, five rural tribal reservation communities, one non-reservation community, and one urban program. The 6 sites implementing the program include (1) the Bay Mills Indian Community, (2) Nottawaseppi Band of Huron Potawatomi, (3) Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, (4) Lac Vieux Desert Indian Tribe, (5) Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, , and (6) the American Indian Health and Family Services of Southwestern Michigan. The service area spans 19 counties in Michigan and is characterized by significant geographical dispersal, variance in population density, diversity in urban/rural setting, and varying degrees of infrastructure.

Description of Existing Early Childhood System

At present, ITC directly manages Head Start and Early Head Start programs at seven tribal sites in Michigan; it also shares training and resource information with two additional tribal Head Start programs which are self-managed. Through the Tribal MIECHV grant, ITC administers sub-contracts to six sites for the provision of Home Visiting. Home visiting is available at six additional sites supported with other funds. While ITC does not directly manage or oversee any CCDF funds, it shares information and resources with tribes who use CCDF for early childhood services. While the specific fiscal relationship and administrative role that ITC plays varies within each tribe and by program, the agency acts as a forum for communication, holds quarterly statewide network meetings, and sharing of resources across all sites within the State. For the TELI project, specific collaborative efforts will be both within central ITC administrative functions and targeted locally.

Key Federal and Technical Assistance (TA) Staff

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