

# **Tribal Research Center on Early Childhood under the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program and the Head Start Act's Head Start and Early Head Start Programs, Research Center**

## **University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus**

### *Project Title:*

Tribal Early Childhood Research Center

### *Principal Investigator:*

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### *Co-Principal Investigators:*

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### *Partners:*

- Johns Hopkins University (subcontract, Allison Barlow Principal Investigator)
- Michigan State University (subcontract, Jessica Barnes Principal Investigator)
- University of Oklahoma (consultant, Paul Spicer)
- James Bell Associates

### *Project Funding Years:*

2011 – 2016

### *Project Abstract:*

The Tribal Early Childhood Research Center (TRC) seeks to address gaps in research on child outcomes for young American Indian/ Alaska Native (AI/AN) children. Goals of the TRC are as follows:

1. Engage in a participatory-process of consultation with key stakeholders and collaboration with tribal Head Start / Early Head Start (HS/EHS) and Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) programs to foster a community of learning;
2. Support and conduct research and measurement development;

3. Enhance program evaluation and research-to-practice activities;
4. Broadly disseminate TRC findings; and
5. Train the next generation of researchers to work effectively with tribal communities to advance HS/EHS, MIECHV and other early childhood programs serving AI/AN children and families.

These goals will be addressed as the TRC builds upon partnerships between the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus' Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, tribal communities, and researchers nationwide. Collaborative activities will include research (both primary data collection and secondary analysis) with a strong emphasis on measure development and validation; support of evaluation and research-to-practice activities through meeting presentations, webinars, and intensive, individualized consultations with individual HS/EHS and MIECHV programs; enhancement of the accessibility of research findings regarding AI/AN child development and related services through the development of a comprehensive and user-friendly clearinghouse and website; and an intensive mentorship program for junior investigators interested in working with HS/EHS and MIECHV programs and the AI/AN communities they serve.