

Background

In a statewide needs assessment, North Dakota (ND) identified Benson, Ramsey, and Rolette Counties as the areas in highest need of home visiting services due to high rates of infant mortality, poverty, housing insecurity, low educational achievement, unemployment, child maltreatment, and interpersonal violence. Using the Self-Healing Communities Model (SHCM), the ND Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program worked to empower Local Implementing Agencies (LIAs) to be self-healing and trauma-informed by strengthening resources and services, ultimately leading to better outcomes for families and communities.

This project aimed to demonstrate improvement in the following priority area(s):

- Priority #1: Recruitment, engagement, and retention of eligible families to MIECHV-funded home visiting programs.
- Priority #2: Development and retention of a trained, highly skilled MIECHV-funded home visiting workforce.
- Priority #3: Coordination of MIECHV-funded home visiting programs with community resources and supports.

Resources

[ND MIECHV Program](#)
[Self-Healing Communities Model](#)
[MIECHV Innovation Awards](#)

Project Activities and Highlights

The ND MIECHV SHCM project chose to focus on incorporating Neuroscience, Epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and Resilience (NEAR@Home) and the Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) curriculum into their work with families.

Project Activities

- Eight forums were held in each county, during which stakeholder groups discussed the SHCM and decided how to produce self-healing work in the community.
- 32 individuals across the state were trained as the first cohort of the ACE Interface Train the Trainer (TtT) Program.

Lessons Learned

- Assessing staff strengths and ensuring ongoing, formal performance check-ins help staff remain on the same page and keep project momentum moving forward.
- Develop a shared language that resonates with partners to avoid impeding progress by using unfamiliar terms.

Evaluation Summary

Evaluation Findings

- Parents reported a significant increase in awareness after each lesson of the PIP curriculum (see Figure 1).
- On average, trainees of the ACEs Interface TtT Program agreed to the statement: “I understand the role of, and reason for, ACEs trainers in my state.”

Sustainability

- [Eight videos](#) were developed for the Native American communities addressing several issues of importance such as racism, trauma, seven teachings, and crabs in a bucket. The videos have been shared nearly 400 times and viewed over by 13,000 individuals.

Recommendations for the Home Visiting Field

- Adapt trainings and presentations to use less technical language, draw on local history, and use relevant examples.
- Approach evaluation as “solving community problems together” and with other empowerment principles.

Figure 1: Lesson 8 – Choices in Parenting (Turtle Mountain LIA)

