

Healthy Marriage Initiative

Project Title: Healthy Potawatomi Families
Grant Period: 2008 – 2011
Requested Amount: \$595,141 (approximately \$175,000 per year)
Leveraged Amount: 20% match
Funding Agency: Administration for Native Americans

Summary and Objectives

The Healthy Potawatomi Families intervention strategy involves the adoption of best-practice and research-based curricula that will provide effective relationship-building skills to married and non-married couples as well as provide parenting skills to parents and caregivers.

Intervention is done primarily by 2 MSW's that will act as Project Leaders, implementing activities throughout the Tribe's 7 county service area that spans 4,600 square miles. Additionally, the Project receives commitment from two partners: Pat Crum (Family Nurturing Center of Michigan), and Luanne Beaudry (Parenting Awareness Michigan). The Tribe also has commitments and support from NHBP Tribal Programs such as the court system, and youth program.

The overall goal and vision of the Project is to strengthen and build multigenerational functioning within the families of our Potawatomi community. Evaluation-focused Project strategies have identified key indicators to help us measure this change. They are healthy marriage indicators: commitment of the couple; satisfaction; communication; conflict resolution; lack of domestic violence; fidelity; interaction / time together; intimacy / emotional support; commitment to the children (if applicable); duration / legal marital status (if applicable); and spirituality. Parenting skills place emphasis on 14 skill areas, some of which include: children's brain development, empathy, discipline, rewarding behavior, nurturing, drugs, sex, and alcohol, communication skills, and self-awareness.

Grant objectives are:

- To improve the marital relationships of 80% of Project participants throughout each year of the 3-year Project.
- To improve the non-marital relationships skills of 80% of Project participants throughout each year of the 3-year Project.
- To improve the parenting skills of 80% of Project participants throughout each year of the 3-year Project.

Budget

The budget provides for salary costs for two (2) Project Leaders to implement activities, attend appropriate trainings, and program costs that will help to achieve the objectives above.