

Multi-site Implementation Evaluation of Tribal MIECHV (MUSE)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is MUSE?

MUSE is a multi-site evaluation project that is funded by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) at the Administration for Children and Families. The contract for MUSE was awarded to James Bell Associates, Inc. (JBA) and the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health (CAIANH) at the University of Colorado's Anschutz Medical Campus. This multi-site evaluation will build on the local grantee evaluations conducted in the first round of Tribal MIECHV funding and answer key questions about home visiting implementation and adaptation. Information from MUSE study can help build our understanding of program processes and outcomes across programs and models, allowing us to look at what works for home visiting in tribal communities from a diverse and statistically powered standpoint.

An implementation study like MUSE can help us with answering questions such as:

- How are programs implemented and culturally adapted?
- What types of activities and resources support quality implementation?
- How do community and cultural contexts impact implementation of home visiting?
- What implementation factors help promote positive family outcomes?

Who will lead the study (MUSE Team)?

MUSE Project Officer, Aleta Meyer, PhD, OPRE. Aleta will oversee the MUSE contract and provide Federal direction for the study design. She is the Team Lead for AI/AN and Community Engaged Research and the Acting Director for the Division of Family Strengthening.

Principal Investigator, Nancy Whitesell, PhD, CAIANH. Nancy will provide overall technical direction for the MUSE project. She is the Director of Research and Measurement for the Tribal Early Childhood Research Center (TRC); and has worked for 5 years with Tribal MIECHV grantees, along with tribal Head Start and Child Care programs, to build capacity for culturally and scientifically rigorous research in tribal contexts.

Project Director, Kate Lyon, MA, JBA. Kate will monitor the overall quality and timeline of MUSE project activities, advise on day-to-day operations, and oversee data collection. Kate is also the Project Director for the Tribal Evaluation Institute and has worked with the Tribal MIECHV program for 6 years.

Co-Investigator, Michelle Sarche, PhD (Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe), CAIANH. Michelle will oversee the stakeholder engagement and tribal approval processes and contribute to the development of the evaluation design. She is the co-director of the TRC and co-chairs the annual Native Children's Research Exchange conference with Dr. Whitesell.

Project Coordinator, Tess Abrahamson-Richards, MPH (Spokane Tribe), JBA. Tess will manage day-to-day MUSE activities including coordinating data collection and management, consulting with various stakeholders, and leading development of the MUSE dissemination plan. Tess is a Research Associate at JBA. She has a professional background in early childhood education and community-based public health research in tribal and urban Indian communities.

Also working with the MUSE team are TEI project staff who will serve as MUSE-TEI Liaisons, Julie Morales, Brandie Buckless, Erin Geary, and Erica Roberts; and research methodologists Melina Salvador, Nancy Asdigian and Mariel Sparr.

Who else will be involved (MUSE Stakeholders)?

There are multiple stakeholder groups who will be involved in the MUSE Study, including:

- All grantees opting into MUSE, their program staff, and evaluators;
- Grantee community members, advisory boards, and tribal/organizational research approval entities;
- Subject Matter Experts in the fields of Home Visiting, evaluation in partnership with tribal communities, Implementation Science, and Cultural Adaptation; and
- Tribal MIECHV Federal Program staff.

What is required of grantees participating in MUSE?

All grantees who decided to participate in the multi-site study in their applications for their IEG grant, and IEG grantees who are still unsure about participating and want to learn more, will join upcoming meetings about the study. These grantees will help shape the MUSE study through web and in-person meetings as well as through individual conversations with the MUSE team. Grantees will provide input on:

- Plans for engaging grantee staff, tribal and organizational leadership and grantee communities;
- the conceptual model which the evaluation is designed to test;
- evaluation design; and
- data collection measures and methods.

One opportunity for more intensive participation exists through the MUSE Technical Workgroup (TWG). The TWG is optional, and its members will contribute additional time to MUSE to help shape study design and procedures.

Once the evaluation plan is finalized, grantees will participate in collecting, submitting and interpreting data for MUSE. Initial plans are to use existing data as much as possible, supplemented with additional data collection influenced by stakeholder input. The MUSE Team will work closely with grantees to support any new data collection.

What evaluation questions is MUSE trying to answer?

Here are some of the key questions we are trying to answer with the MUSE study:

- What implementation fidelity support strategies are used by Tribal MIECHV grantees?
- What is the context and rationale for adaptation, enhancement, and supplementation of evidence-based home visiting models by Tribal MIECHV grantees?
- How do implementation fidelity supports and context influence quality implementation of home visiting models, adaptations, enhancements, and supplements by Tribal MIECHV grantees?
- How does implementation quality of home visiting models, adaptations, enhancements, and supplements by Tribal MIECHV grantees relate to immediate child and family outcomes?
- How do staff, organizational, and community characteristics relate to implementation quality of home visiting models, adaptations, enhancements, and supplements?

These questions will be refined with stakeholder input throughout the first year of the project.

What evaluation methods will MUSE use?

The evaluation's exact methods will depend on input from grantees, communities, subject matter experts and other stakeholders. The evaluation is expected to use both qualitative and quantitative methods including interviews and focus groups, surveys and observational methods. A mixed-method approach will enable us to examine relationships among implementation fidelity, cultural and contextual adaptation, quality of service, and child and parent outcomes.

What is the timeline for the MUSE study?

Year 1 – Introduce the MUSE study to Grantees and Grantee communities, engage stakeholders, conduct background research, refine conceptual model and evaluation design, garner necessary research approvals, prepare to launch data collection, plan for eventual dissemination of findings.

Years 2-4 – Data collection, continued stakeholder engagement, review and commentary on interim data analyses and annual summaries of findings.

Years 3-5 – Analyze, interpret, and disseminate data, suggest areas for future research. Data dissemination will include a final report presented in each community, scientific reports and publications, and other mechanisms decided on by project stakeholders.