



Family Spirit is an evidence-based home visiting program developed for and with Native American communities. Developed by the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health in partnership with tribal communities, Family Spirit optimizes local cultural assets and resources.



Participants

Family Spirit serves Native American caregivers and children from pregnancy through age 3. The curriculum is being expanded to serve up to age 5.

What We Do With Families

Health Educators deliver a culturally focused, strengths-based curriculum during regular home visits. Caregivers gain knowledge and skills to promote healthy development and positive lifestyles for themselves and their children.

Location

Over 160 communities across 24 states have received the Family Spirit Program training and curriculum to use with their home visiting services

Accomplishments

Family Spirit:

- Is the only evidence-based home visiting program designed for and with Native American families
- Meets Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness federal standards
- Effectively promotes child development, school readiness, maternal health, and positive parenting practices
- Uses a precision research framework to create responsive new content modules and a digital version of the curriculum
- Is adaptable for local communities while ensuring fidelity to the model

What We Do With Communities

Family Spirit partners with local organizations to:

- Train members of the community as certified Family Spirit Health Educators
- Provide curriculum materials and resources
- Provide ongoing technical assistance
- Tailor implementation to local needs

The Annie E. Casey Foundation invested in the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health-Family Spirit Model as a Building Evidence to Advance Equity grantee. Technical assistance for this program profile was provided to Family Spirit by James Bell Associates under a contract from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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