Engaging Grantees to Develop Measures for Tribal Home Visiting through the MUSE Study

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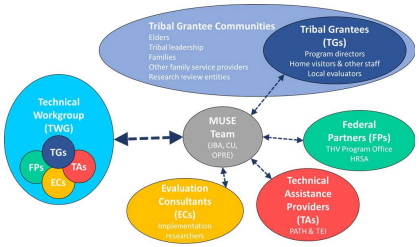
The Multi-site Implementation Evaluation of Tribal Home Visiting (MUSE)

MUSE is a 5-year **implementation evaluation** of Tribal MIECHV-funded home visiting programs and families they serve. It is funded by the Administration for Children and Families Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) and is led by a team at James Bell Associates, Inc. and the University of Colorado Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health.

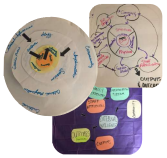
MUSE builds on prior non-tribal MIECHV studies; single-site evaluations conducted by Tribal MIECHV grantees during their previous grant cycle; and other home visiting, program implementation, and tribally-focused research.

MUSE Stakeholders

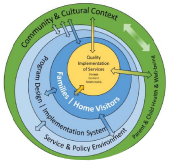


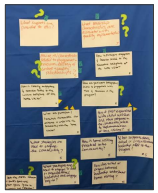
MUSE **Stakeholder Engagement** is a structured and intentional process that was initiated at the inception of MUSE. This process is built around defined activities, models, and principles.

Multi-step Stakeholder Engagement Process



The MUSE study team hosted an interactive stakeholder workshop to gather input and co-create the **MUSE conceptual model**

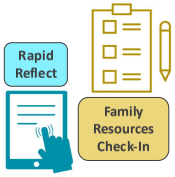




The **study aims and questions** were refined by the technical workgroup through sticky dot voting and by feedback from the larger stakeholder group. **The three study aims are to: (1)** Identify and describe the primary influences shaping THV program planning, **(2)** Identify and describe how THV programs are being implemented, and **(3)** Explore what supports home visiting implementation in tribal communities.

Stakeholders identified key **measurement constructs** like home visitor responsiveness and family resiliency

Grantees **provided feedback on proposed existing measures**, contributed to **development of new measures** and pilot tested instruments



The Rapid Reflect

What is the Rapid Reflect?

- Two **brief surveys to measure what happens in home visits**
- 5 questions for **caregivers** and 11 questions for **home visitors**
- **Completed right after a visit**, on iPads, to get fresh impressions of what just occurred

Why was the Rapid Reflect Developed?

The Rapid Reflect surveys were developed as an alternative to home visit observations in response to contextual factors surrounding the MUSE study design:

1. Observations are not acceptable in many of the tribal communities partnering in the MUSE study due to concerns about inviting additional external participants to a home visit for research purposes. Caregivers may already be nervous about the intent of home visiting programs, and research in particular has a negative history for many tribal communities and individuals.
2. It was not feasible to reliably train staff at 17 geographically dispersed sites to complete observations, given the resources and timeline of the MUSE study.

How was the Rapid Reflect Created?

The MUSE study team identified questions to include through a process of:

1. reviewing validated home visit observation tools and
2. responding to stakeholder feedback

- Example: Questions about *home visitor responses to challenges encountered* was included on the home visitor Rapid Reflect after grantee stakeholders emphasized the importance of this often under-appreciated skill set, noting that successful home visitors meet families where they are during a given visit.

Grantee staff at the 17 partner sites provided feedback on Rapid Reflect items and process.

What Domains are Included in the Rapid Reflect?

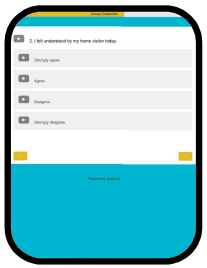
- **Caregiver**: Home visitor-family relationship, utility of visit content, visit satisfaction
- **Home Visitor**: Visit duration, location, participants, content, services provided, challenges encountered and home visitor responses, caregiver engagement

How will Rapid Reflect Data be Used?

Rapid Reflect data will be combined with qualitative interview and caregiver survey data to assess caregiver and staff experiences with home visiting, home visitor-family relationships, home visit content, and attitudes towards home visit content.

The Rapid Reflect Instrument

Explore the Rapid Reflect on a MUSE Study iPad!



The Family Resources Check-In

What is the Family Resources Check-In?

A measure of economic strain among caregivers enrolled in Tribal Home Visiting services.

Why was the Family Resources Check-in Developed?

Tribal MIECHV grants require sites to screen for economic strain. Many grantees were struggling to identify screeners they felt were adequate for the families they served; existing screener had gaps for this population:

- Expenses related to children were not included
- Health insurance items did not consider tribal health funding systems (e.g., Indian Health Service)
- Questions about internet or transportation access did not account for rurality
- Adequate housing measures did not consider multi-generational or other non-nuclear family contexts

The MUSE study team used a stakeholder-engaged process to create an economic strain screener that could be used to:

1. satisfy the grant screening requirement,
2. help grantees identify families in need of resources, and
3. time generate valuable data for the MUSE study.

How was the Family Resources Check-in Created?

1. Reviewed existing economic strain screeners
2. Chose items from existing screeners that grantees agreed worked well for their families
3. Worked with grantees to identify gaps and write new items to fill those gaps

We went through several iterations of feedback from grantees and other stakeholders to refine the measure.

What Domains are Included in the Family Resources Check-in?

Food	Transportation	Child-related expenses	Healthcare
Housing	Employment	Phone & Internet	

How will Family Resources Check-in Data be Used?

Family Resources Check-in data will be part of the information MUSE will have to help describe the kinds of families being served by Tribal home visiting programs and to understand how those families are changing over the time they are involved with home visiting programs. These data can also be used to help us learn about how programs tailor services to meet the needs of different families.

The Family Resources Check-In Instrument

Some families have a hard time paying for all of the things they need. The questions below are about some of the basic things families need. Please choose the box that best matches your experience of being able to afford things in the past year.

Response options for the Questions 1-17: Almost every month; some months but not every month; only 1 or 2 months; never.

IN THE PAST YEAR ...
1 we worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.
2 the food we bought just didn't last and we didn't have money to get more.
3 we couldn't afford to buy nutritious food for our family.
How often IN THE PAST YEAR my family had trouble getting where we needed to go because...
4 we didn't have access to a reliable vehicle.
5 we couldn't afford gas.
6 we couldn't afford to take the bus or other public transportation.
Additional response option for Question 6: Public transportation is not available where I live.
7 IN THE PAST YEAR, my family didn't have enough money to buy the basic things my child or children need (clothing, shoes, diapers, etc.)
8 IN THE PAST YEAR, I had to miss work, school or important appointments because I didn't have childcare.
IN THE PAST YEAR ...
9 I or someone else in my family couldn't afford to go to the doctor, dentist or other healthcare provider when we needed to.
10 my family couldn't afford to pay for medications, glasses, or other medical supplies that we needed.
IN THE PAST YEAR my family ...
11 did not have phone service because we couldn't afford to pay for it.
12 could not afford to pay for Internet access.
Additional response option for Question 12: Internet is not available where we live.
IN THE PAST YEAR, I or someone in my household ...
13 looked for a job but could not find one.
14 had a job but it didn't pay enough to cover our family's expenses.
IN THE PAST YEAR, my family has ...
15 had a safe place to live.
16 had electricity or other utilities shut off because we couldn't afford to pay the bill.
17 had a place to live that had enough space for everyone in the family.
18 My family has had to move IN THE PAST YEAR because we couldn't afford where we were living. No; Yes, once; Yes, twice; Yes, more than twice
19 IN THE PAST MONTH, I have had a place to live...All month; Most of the month (more than 1 week but not all month); Only for 1 week or less; No