



Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Services

Tribal Home Visiting (TMIECHV)

Tribal Home Visiting partners with eight Tribes to provide home visiting services for families from pregnancy through kindergarten entry. Our partner sites include the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Bay Mills Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, American Indian Health and Family Services–Detroit, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Year 3 of 5 began on October 1, 2025. ITCMI is working on final submissions for the project's annual reports, which are due December 31, 2025. All Year 3 subcontracts were dispersed on September 30, 2025.



For more information on the THV program contact:

Amanda Bahrou, Program Manager
Josie Babcock, Data and Reporting Manager
Madison Thompson, Program Coordinator

CIRCLE-HV

In 2024, ITCMI and the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) received a three-year Research Practice Partnership grant from the Center for Indigenous Research Collaborations and Learning from Home Visiting (CIRCLE-HV). The project focuses on refining and validating the Caregiver Stress and Resilience measure developed during an earlier Tribal Home Visiting evaluation study.

Year 2 of 3 began on May 31, 2025. IRB approval was received in August. The project's data collection began at the end of September and includes cognitive interviews with home visiting clients, key informant interviews with ITCMI staff, knowledge holder interviews, and focus groups with home visitors.

State Home Visiting Expansion (State Home Visiting)

The State Home Visiting Tribal Expansion Project extends home visiting services at three Tribal sites, supported through State of Michigan General Funds. Participating sites include the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The State Home Visiting program serves families from pregnancy through kindergarten entry. Madison Thompson, was recently promoted to Program Manager for the project.

For more information on the program please contact:
Madison Thompson, Program Manager.



Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Services

SOR4 - Tribal Perinatal Opioid Use Disorder Neonatal Abstinence Syndrom Initiative (NAS)

This initiative is supported by a SAMHSA grant awarded to the State of Michigan in which ITCMI is a sub-recipient. The current funding period is October 1, 2024 - September 29, 2027. The program provides care coordination to ensure that families who are preconception, prenatal, postpartum or parenting children ages 0-3 years old, and are affected by opioid use disorder receive comprehensive health services, substance abuse treatment, peer recovery support, and social, educational and other related services to promote well-being, recovery and long term stability.

Direct care coordination services are supported at five Upper Peninsula Tribal communities, including the Bay Mills Indian Community, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, and the Hannahville Indian Community. Plans are underway for expansion to additional tribes in FY26.

Program highlights: A "Plan of Self-Care" workbook is currently being printed and was distributed at the October in-person meeting. The MAT lesson plan has been updated and will be available to home visitors soon, and additional opioid-related lesson materials are also in the process of being updated



For more information on the SOR4-NAS program contact:

Connie Deplonty, Program Manager

Jessica Thompson, Program Coordinator

Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)

A small grant, and no staff positions are supported with its funding. FIMR is funded through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and is renewed on an annual basis. The FIMR grant supports tasks required by the HRSA Healthy Start grant through the nurse assessment of Indigenous fetal and infant death records in the State of Michigan. FIMR cases are brought to our Community Consortium and the FIMR team reviews details and offers solutions to bring forth policy changes to save Indigenous babies.



Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Services

Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

The FFPSA/Family Spirit program currently has openings across all participating sites, including the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Bay Mills Indian Community, and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. The program is designed to support families with Tribal or State CPS involvement within the past 12 months or who are currently involved with CPS, with referrals coming directly from CPS. Due to the high-risk and intensive nature of these cases, each FFPSA home visitor carries a smaller caseload of up to 10 families, and home visit frequency is increased to one visit per week or three to four visits per month. The program requires close collaboration among each site, ITCM, and MDHHS, with client-level data collected through the ITCM home visiting database and shared with the State for federal reporting to ensure continued funding. The University of Michigan is also evaluating program effectiveness, with ITCM providing oversight so that no additional burden is placed on participating tribes. Subcontract award amounts are determined annually based on each site's capacity and service population and may change depending on funding availability, though the project has received consistent funding for the past three years and continuation is expected.

For more information on the FFPSA program please contact:

Shentele Apps, Program Manager
Jessica Thompson, Program Coordinator

Healthy Start

Healthy Start provides comprehensive home visiting and support services to prenatal women, fathers, and families with children through 18 months of age. The program is delivered in partnership with a broad network of tribal communities and an urban Indian health organization, including the Bay Mills Indian Community, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Hannahville Indian Community, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and American Indian Health and Family Services in Detroit. These partnerships ensure that families receive culturally grounded, community-driven care tailored to their unique needs.

Year 2 of the Healthy Start grant cycle concludes on March 31, 2026, and the program has received its full funding allocation for the fiscal year. However, funding for future years remains pending and is contingent upon federal reauthorization by Congress; updates will be provided as additional guidance becomes available.



For more information on the Healthy Start Program contact:

Amanda Bahrou, Program Manager
Madison Thompon, Program Coordinator



Maternal and Early Childhood Services

Infant Safe Sleep

The Safe Sleep Program has provided each site with a large shipment of t-shirts and tote bags designed to promote safe sleep practices and the use of cradleboards. These materials should be distributed to clients, used as outreach items at community events, and incorporated into any related programming or education efforts.

With October recognized as Infant Safe Sleep Month, this is an ideal time to highlight safe sleep practices across your community. Consider using this opportunity to deliver a dedicated safe sleep lesson, integrate refresher content into ongoing visits, or reinforce key messages with families who may benefit from additional support or reminders. Strengthening safe sleep awareness this month can help increase education, visibility, and engagement around infant health and safety.

For more information on ITCM Safe Sleep Project contact: Shentele Apps, Program Manager

Increasing Health Literacy

The Increasing Health Literacy (IHL) project is a two-year initiative funded by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to enhance access to culturally relevant perinatal and youth mental health resources throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula and across ITCMI's Home Visiting Network. The project end date has been extended to October 31, 2025, allowing time for a final project share-out session during the October quarterly in-person meeting.

In September, the IHL project supported a Dream Catcher workshop in Sault Ste. Marie facilitated by Jacquelyn Robinson. The event created a meaningful space for community connection, the sharing of project materials, and the enjoyment of a traditional meal. A total of 50 participants attended, reflecting strong community interest and engagement.

Project deliverables developed to support families, youth, and providers include a series of youth mental health posters; the Supporting Families and Youth: A Mental Health Perspective for Providers infographic; the Strong Minds, Strong Families: Spiritual Health and Parenting podcast (coming soon); and a comprehensive final project report. Together, these resources aim to strengthen culturally grounded mental health literacy and increase access to supportive information across partner communities.

For more information on the Increasing Health Literacy Project contact:

Josie Babcock, Program Manager
Madison Thompson, Program Coordinator



Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Services Staff Contact Information

Amanda Bahrou - Department Director

Amanda@itcmi.org

Sandy Thompson - Administrative Assistant

sthompson@itcmi.org

phone: 906-632-6896 ext 120

Josie Babcock - Assistant Department Director
& Tribal Home Visiting Data and Reporting Manager

josie.babcock@itcmi.org

phone: 906-632-6896 ext 133

Shentele Apps - Families First Prevention Services

Act & Infant Safe Sleep Project Director

shentele.apps@itcmi.org

phone: 906-632-6896 ext 111

Connie DePlonty - Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Initiative Project Director

connied@itcmi.org

phone: 906-632-6896 ext 129

Madison Thompson - Increasing Health Literacy

& Tribal Home Visiting Program Coordinator

mlamma@itcmi.org

phone: 906-632-6896 ext 123

Jessica Thompson - NAS & FFPSA Program Coordinator

jessica@itcmi.org

phone: 906-632-6896 ext 119