



Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi – Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium Cohort 4, Funding Period 2012–2017

Grantee Overview

The Gun Lake, Nottawaseppi Huron, and Pokagon Bands—all federally recognized Potawatomi tribes located in their ancestral homeland in southwest Michigan and/or north central Indiana—have formed a consortium: the Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium. The Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium promotes the wellbeing of Potawatomi children from birth to eight years of age living in its service area by addressing the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and cultural aspects of their development. The location of the three tribal headquarters forms a triangle within this region roughly 70 miles apart from one another. The three tribes’ populations are mostly rural, living in and around the small farming and factory towns that dot the region. Seventeen counties make up the Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium’s service area in Michigan and Indiana: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, Kent, Ottawa, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Elkhart, Kosciusko, La Porte, Marshall, St. Joseph, and Starke. The Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium serves all tribally enrolled Potawatomi and other federally recognized native nations’ expectant and parenting families with children birth to eight years living in the service area. The Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium builds on existing tribal and culturally relevant programs and develops new programs that empower families and children, particularly those enrolled in the four Tribal Health Clinics and three Tribal Head Start Programs. The goals of the Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium are 1) to develop a sustainable infrastructure at each of the three consortium tribes that will improve comprehensive wellness of all young children, expectant mothers, and their families; and 2) to implement a community plan of direct service delivery that increases coordination and collaboration among agencies and systems serving young children, expectant mothers, and their families.

Project Milestones

All [Project LAUNCH](#) grantees implement five core promotion and prevention strategies intended to increase access to high-quality prevention and wellness promotion services for children and their families. In the Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium, these five strategies are implemented through the following activities:

- **Screening and Assessment:** The Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium’s strategy is to work collaboratively in a range of young child-serving settings to promote the use of uniform screening and assessment tools as part of well child visits and implement evidence-based practices with fidelity. Two screening tools have been selected: [Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional, Second Edition \(ASQ:SE-2™\)](#) and the [Pediatric Symptom Checklist](#). Screenings and assessments have also been incorporated into the standard of care for clinic visits, which will support sustainability beyond Project LAUNCH.

- **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC):** The Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium uses the [Family Connections](#) program through [Brazelton Touchpoints Center](#) to provide mental health consultation in early care and education settings, including Head Start (Nottawaseppi Huron Band and Pokagon Band). This includes training with teachers, providing strategies to promote positive behavior in the classroom, and receiving referrals for behavioral health as needed.
- **Enhanced Home Visiting:** Nottawaseppi Huron and Pokagon Bands are using [Triple P – Positive Parenting Program](#) with visiting tribal community health nurses and family services workers to support parents of young children. Using Triple P has been a success, in part due to the unique ways that each of the Tribes has implemented it; the variations are specific to the Tribal communities and their needs. Gun Lake, Nottawaseppi Huron, and Pokagon Bands also collaborate with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan to use Family Spirit through home visiting.
- **Integrating Behavioral Health Into Primary Care:** The Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium is providing on-site mental health consultation at designated primary health care facilities to parents of young children. All three Tribes have achieved co-location of behavioral health and primary care services which allows the primary care provider to make a “warm hand off” to the behavioral health provider, offering a better experience for families.
- **Family Strengthening:** The Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium provides several culturally-specific interventions to promote strong families. Gun Lake is using cradle boarding as an opportunity to teach parents and others about security, attachment, and the social-emotional components to early relationships. Baby celebrations are also important cultural events; each year the tribes welcome the new babies to their communities together with a huge celebration. This event provides education for and by families and the communities around social support, child development, and attachment. Nottawaseppi Huron and Pokagon Bands have Parent Groups that work to engage families, and create connections in the communities. They are also identifying a family champion in each community, who will work to engage other families and create connections throughout the communities. Pokagon Band uses the Parenting Bundle curriculum to educate through culturally relevant programming, and the Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium is using Triple P – Positive Parenting Program to support parents and families.

Systems Integration

Project LAUNCH is intended to improve coordination and collaboration across systems that serve young children and their families. The Bodéwadmi LAUNCH Consortium established three separate Young Child Wellness Councils and a larger consortium Wellness Council. This approach offers all participants the opportunity to work across the tribes and share resources, particularly as they provide trainings on topics such as historical trauma and trauma-informed services.

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