



## NATIVE HEALTH's Home Visiting Program in Phoenix



In September 2010, the [Native American Community Health Center, Inc. dba NATIVE HEALTH](#) was awarded five years of funding by the Administration for Children and Families for the Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. The NATIVE HEALTH Home Visiting Program supports pregnant women and caregivers of young children using [Parents as Teachers](#), their chosen promising model to help improve the health of their American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) families in the Phoenix urban area.

In Year One of the project, NATIVE HEALTH conducted a comprehensive needs assessment to tailor the program to their community. This needs assessment included both collecting new survey data and accessing existing data sources from state agencies. Valuable relationships built with Arizona State Department of Health

*“As Native peoples, we all have shared responsibility in helping our children grow up healthy and ready to succeed.*

*- Amber Curley*

Services (AZ DHS) including the Maternal and Child Bureau Section and their Chief, supported the development of a survey tool, which gathered demographics and maternal and child health priorities and needs from about 400 community members. NATIVE HEALTH also participates on a state-wide Home Visiting Inter-Agency Leadership Team - the only AI/AN organization represented. This inter-agency alliance connected them to AZ DHS evaluators who provided relevant data from a variety of state sources, including Juvenile Corrections and Head Start. NATIVE HEALTH also reached out to Home Visiting Coordinators from nearby tribes to gather lessons they had learned and to develop referral opportunities for tribal members living off the reservation to receive services at NATIVE HEALTH.



Findings reflect an opportunity for the NATIVE HEALTH Home Visiting Program to address priority needs, including multiple risk factors for poor birth outcomes among young expectant parents. With a small staff of one Project Coordinator, two Community Outreach Specialists and one contracted Program Evaluator, NATIVE HEALTH's Home Visiting Program has done a fantastic job of collaborating with partners and gathering the needs of their community. NATIVE HEALTH's initial efforts serve as a solid foundation with great potential for the Home Visiting Program to have a positive impact in their community.

NATIVE HEALTH's Home Visiting Program is looking forward to serving the urban AI/AN community and affecting a positive change in the lives of young children and their primary caregivers.

Christy Harrison,  
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For more information about the NATIVE HEALTH Home  
Visiting Program, call (602) 279-5262.

