

ACF TELI Grantee Convening Reflection
November 14 – 15, 2023
Weaving Together the Dream of your TELI Early Childhood System

In 2022, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Early Childhood Funders Collaborative (ECFC) and Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP) entered a public – private Collaboration (the Collaboration). The Collaboration seeks to provide additional support to ACF's Tribal Early Learning Initiative (TELI) Grantee Cohort by leveraging federal and private resources to provide innovative solutions and respect the sovereignty and self-determination of Indian Country. NAP and ECFC work alongside ACF's technical assistance and grant resources by providing supplemental funding via mini-grants, in-kind communications work that seeks to ensure that grantee successes, highlights, and lessons learned are shared broadly and logistical and financial resources for the 2023 Annual TELI Grantee Convening via the Heising Simons Foundation and the Trust for Learning.

The 2023 TELI Annual Grantee Convening took place on November 14-15, 2023 hosted by the Isleta Resort and Casino in Albuquerque, NM. The theme of convening was Weaving Together the Dream of your TELI Early Childhood System which illustrates the purpose and opportunity for TELI grantees to bring together their Tribal Home Visiting (Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting), American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start/Early Head Start, and Tribal Child Care (Child Care and Development Fund) programs to support high-quality, coordinated early childhood development services for Native children and families. With much gratitude to the Miami Environmental & Energy Solution (MEES) team for their meeting planning expertise, the Convening brought together 3-5 representatives from the eight TELI grantees representing 5 different States from across the country, to share knowledge and increase learning by:

- Sharing best practices and lessons learned in building early childhood systems in Tribal communities.
- Provide training on content areas of interest to TELI Collaboratives and
- Support peer to peer sharing between TELI Collaboratives

Honored guest speakers supported the Convening, including Cotillion Sneddy, Assistant Secretary, New Mexico Early Childhood Education provided the Welcoming Remarks, Keynote Speaker, Dr. Anton Treuer, Professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University gave an inspirational presentation, “Fostering the Positive Identity Development of Native American Kids.” Grantees participated in working sessions: “How to Engage Families in Systems Work” and “Community Wellness within an Indigenous Systems Building Perspective”.

Throughout the convening, cultural performances added to the great discussions and work being conducted, including the Pueblo of Acoma Enchantment Dancers, Emileah Lujan, Taos Pueblo Hoop Dancer, and NAP staff member, Kansas Begaye provided a blessing. Closing the convening was Mitch Factor, Speaker, and Comedian, specializing in parent and family involvement provided a charismatic, comedic atmosphere that created an uplifting conclusion for attendees as they departed.

The collaboration between ACF, NAP & ECFC and the TELI Grantees was a success as every collaborator came ready to share knowledge and lessons learned, while building upon and fostering new relationships. NAP and ECFC were honored to be able to participate and contribute to this important gathering of grantees and are looking forward to future opportunities to engage with the TELI Grantees as they continue their meaningful and impactful work in their communities.