

Tips for

Culture-based Programs that Build **Resiliency**

How to design a CULTURE BASE PROGRAM?

- • • **Acknowledge that**... American Indian youth cultures are not monolithic; it is important to recognize their rich diversity and histories.
- • • **Determine**... what resources, support, time, and effort necessary to implement a culture-based program.
- • • **Define**... what culture and resiliency mean to the community.
- • • **Engage**... with the community, stakeholders, youth, elders, teachers, and partners to get their feedback about the kinds of culture-based programs that could work.
- • • **Design and implement**.... culture-based programs that are feasible, led by community members, and are of interest to youth.
- • • **Offer**... programs consistently, stick to a schedule.
- • • **Address**... inequalities and inequities, what is happening within a family or home that may impact youth involvement in a program.
- • • **Evaluate**... what is working, what is not working, and what next.

Four Recommendations for BUILDING RESILIENCE in American Indian Youth

- 1 Look for organizations and people who have the time and energy to help.
- 2 Use a trauma-informed lens when considering how youth overcome adversity and the types of programs that build resilience.
- 3 Treat every youth as an individual, with a unique history, family, circumstance, and dream.
- 4 Connect youth to their homeland, family, culture, history, and way of life... back to the 1700 and 1800s.

“When you tie something to a person’s identity and who they really are, it makes things more relevant and meaningful to them.”

– Northern Cheyenne Youth

Key Questions to Ask

- Why are culture-based programs so important for AI/AN youth?
- Where should culture-based programs live?
- When should culture-based programs occur?
- How do we know if culture-based programs work?

Want more information on evaluation and culture-based resiliency programs?

- • • • • Kelley, A., Fatupaito, B., & Witzel, M. (2018). Is culturally based prevention effective? Results from a 3-year tribal substance use prevention program. Evaluation and Program Planning, 71, 28-35.
- • • • • Kelley, A., Witzel, M., & Fatupaito, B. (2019). A review of tribal best practices in substance abuse prevention. Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse, 18(3), 462-475.
- • • • • Kelley, A., & Small, C. (2020). Documenting Resiliency of American Indian Youth: Preliminary results from Native PRIDE's Intergenerational Connections Project. Journal of Indigenous Research, 8(2020), 5.

Contact Us

Adriann Killsnight - blackbirdwoman00@gmail.com
<https://www.lamedeerschools.org>

Allyson Kelley - kelleyallyson@gmail.com
<https://www.allysonkelleypllc.com>

Les Left Hand - les.lefthand@rmtlc.org
<https://www.rmtlc.org>

Online Apps for Northern Cheyenne Language and Culture

The Cheyenne Online Dictionary website:
<http://www.cdkc.edu/cheyennedictionary/index.html>

Apps:
Cheyenne Ethnobotany App
Cheyenne Vocab Builder
Lame Deer Public Schools

