

Kickapoo Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention

Strong Fathers, Strong Families

Strong Fathers, Strong Families helps improve family relationships

The five-year Kickapoo Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Project – Strong Fathers, Strong Families – is focused on strengthening the parenting skills of fathers and father figures in the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas.

Extended families play an important role in child development and family life, and this project is a unique opportunity to support them. Social supports are a protective factor that mitigate the risk of abuse and neglect and improve overall family functioning.

STRONG FATHERS, STRONG FAMILIES OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Develop a support network for fathers and father figures in the Kickapoo community
- ▶ Integrate strategies that reinforce parenting skills and enhance family relationships
- ▶ Foster the economic stability of father figures through coordination with tribal employment programs
- ▶ Improve relationship skills among father figures to sustain healthy relationships with co-parents and children

Program leaders are also working with other community efforts to create a Family Resource Center, which will serve as a central location for resources, information, and referrals for all family-related services.

GRANT GOAL

Strengthen the relationship between Kickapoo fathers and father figures with their children and families while improving fathers' long-term economic stability.

RECIPIENT

Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas

GRANT MAKER

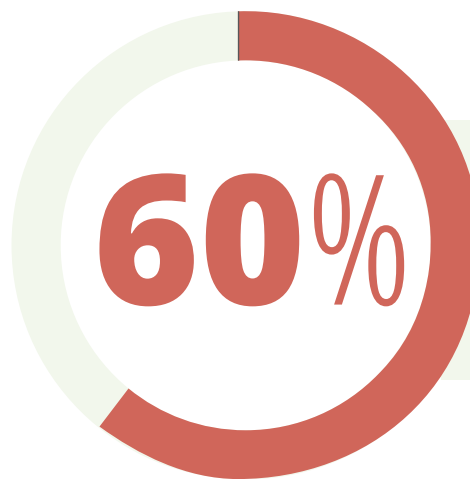
Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families

AMOUNT

\$641,966

TERM

2016-2021



Children and youth make up 60 percent of the 1,611 enrolled members of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas (KTIK).



OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PASSPORT GIVES FAMILIES A FUN ACTIVITY TO DO TOGETHER



A great way for families to build strong bonds is to participate in fun activities together. Families in the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas had a great opportunity to do just that when the Strong Fathers, Strong Families program kicked off its Outdoor Activity Passport program.

Father figures were given passport booklets, based on the Kansas Outdoor Bill of Rights, that included 10 categories of outdoor activities all families should have access to and engage in together. The passport booklets help families track their time together outside. When a family completes an activity, their passport gets an official stamp.

At the kickoff event for this program, father figures and kids enjoyed some laser tag, a bounce house, and snacks while receiving parenting resources and brainstorming outdoor activities to do with their kids. Providing safe spaces for families to have fun together is an important part of the Strong Fathers, Strong Families initiative.

The response from attendees at the kickoff was enthusiastic and positive. In fact, at the end of the night, one dad said, “So when’s the next event? Tomorrow?”

The Kickapoo Tribe is focused on building strong families by strengthening fathers

When it comes to raising healthy, happy children and developing thriving communities, dads matter. That’s why the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas is focused on giving fathers and father figures the skills and support they need to reach their full potential, positively impacting children and the entire Tribe.

“Fathers are an important part of our culture and traditions, just as they are critical to our community’s ability to grow healthy, happy children,” shares Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas Chairman Lester Randall. “Many early childhood and family programs tend to focus on the role of the mother in raising and caring for kids. Women and mothers are incredibly important to our community and our families as well, but we often forget to provide resources and opportunities for fathers and men too.”

The Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas was one of only three grantees to receive this award under the Children’s Bureau “Grants to Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Migrant Programs for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs” (Tribal CBCAP) initiative. The Kickapoo Strong Fathers, Strong Families program focuses specifically on fatherhood and the important role father figures of all kinds play in the community, especially in the lives of children.

“Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and other male role models are important to the well-being of our entire Tribe, so it has been great to have a program devoted to them,” Randall says.

Two years into the Strong Fathers, Strong Families program, positive change was already occurring. Staff observed more fathers and father figures attending activities and engaging with children. This project proves that when the whole community comes together, they connect with the Tribe’s history of traditions that strengthen family relationships, increase parent engagement, and connect families with the resources they need.

For the last three years of the grant, program staff hope to provide more tailored and culturally responsive avenues for father figures to connect with the kids in their lives, including Kickapoo language classes and traditional practices such as archery and leather work, outdoor exploration, and sports and recreation.

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Lester Randall, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas Chairman

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