



**Every child is healthy, safe, learning and ready for school.**

# Request for Proposal

**RFP: Parents as Teachers Indigenous Outcomes**

**Proposal Due Date: November 15, 2023**

**Proposed Project Duration: January 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 with possible additional contract**

## **Project Overview:**

Parents as Teachers® (PAT) builds strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to learn by matching parents and caregivers with trained professionals who make regular personal visits from pregnancy through kindergarten. The internationally recognized evidence-based home visiting model is backed by over 35 years of research-proven outcomes for children and families and currently serves almost 200,000 families in 49 U.S. states, 115 tribal organizations, 1 U.S. territory and 5 other countries. PAT is headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri and provides affiliate agencies across the globe with training, curricula, and support to replicate the model successfully. For more information, visit [parentsasteachers.org](https://parentsasteachers.org) or X (formerly known as Twitter) @NatIPAT. Parents as Teachers operates with a shared set of values and beliefs that define our culture, guide our conduct, and inspire our success:

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility**  
**Integrity & Accountability**

**Relationships**  
**Learning & Growth**

## **Scope of Work:**

- The scope of work includes the development of trusted partnerships with indigenous communities toward the conceptualization of evaluation(s) of Parents as Teachers with a focus on effective outcomes, as defined by the community, from PAT implementation in Indigenous communities. Potential for additional contract(s) to be awarded to enact evaluation plan. The evaluator will consult with PATNC Research department at each juncture of the project.

## **Project Goals:**

Parents as Teachers is seeking an evaluation partner to lead relationship-building, evaluation project conceptualization, with the potential to continue the project into implementation, in collaboration with Indigenous communities served by affiliate agencies implementing Parents as Teachers. In so doing, we seek to strengthen the evidence base for Parents as Teachers within indigenous communities by rooting that evidence base in community priorities and inclusive of Indigenous methods and ways of knowing. Specifically:

- Form a learning community to work in partnership with representation from tribal entities, PAT affiliates, families, and tribal researchers. The evaluator will work in collaboration with PATNC to develop agendas and topic areas for the learning community.
- Work collaboratively with the learning community and partner tribes in all areas of the project.
- Establish trusted partnerships with Tribes, being cognizant of the variations of funding and infrastructure present among tribes, with plans for support for Tribes that are under-resourced for evaluation partnerships.
- Develop a set of guiding principles that can act as the foundation for the work of the learning community and that can be shared across all tribal partners, learning community members, and PATNC. Some examples of what could be included in guiding principles are: values (e.g., strengths focus, Indigenous ways of knowing), relationship-building principles (e.g., active engagement, dialogue, transparency), principles to facilitate knowledge and skill building (e.g., support for research practices, use of cultural protocols), inclusion of historical context (e.g., disconnected or harmful past evaluations, historical and intergenerational trauma).

- Develop and describe a working definition for the project of what it means to have implementation integrity and fidelity to the community and fidelity to the model.
- In collaboration with partner tribes and the learning community across all levels of the project, develop an evaluation plan with a focus on effective outcomes, as defined by the community, from PAT implementation in Indigenous communities. Include a theory of change and conceptual model.
- Embrace an evaluation design and methodology that considers generalizability and rigor with traditional and culturally appropriate practices.
- Advance toward implementation of research and learning ideas and evaluation plan derived from the learning community.

#### **Requirements of the Successful Applicant:**

- Extensive experience developing partnerships with tribal Nations that ensure collaboration, transparency, and negotiation about all aspects of the project from concept and design through implementation, execution and dissemination.
- Demonstrated ability to show respect and obey the laws and government of host communities.
- Demonstrated understanding of basic knowledge about tribal communities, including:
  - Legal status of U.S. federally recognized Tribes as sovereign nations
  - Tribal governance structures, infrastructure, laws, and community norms
- Experience and ability not only to secure IRB approval at a home institution (where applicable) but also to secure research approval from tribal communities, which may require Tribal Council resolutions or securing approval from Tribal Review Boards. Demonstrated understanding that mainstream research ethical standards do not in themselves safeguard Indigenous cultures or rights, and the process for engaging in ethical research in partnership with tribal communities is an evolving process.
- Ability to embrace the extended time that may be required to form trusted working partnerships with Tribes and partner with them on research.
- Extensive familiarity with home visiting, the Parents as Teachers model, and Parents as Teachers affiliate organizations, preferably including experience with evaluation of Parents as Teachers.

#### **Submission Requirements:**

- Description of the responding organization that includes a general overview, names and credentials of the project team, and capacity of the organization for conducting evaluation research.
- Description of the organization's experience with developing long-term trusted partnerships for research with tribal nations, including key elements of processes, past projects, and outcomes.
- A one-page narrative of the organization's philosophy or approach to research with tribal communities, including values and beliefs that guide the work.
- A one-page proposed process for working with the learning community for this project and engaging PATNC in the process.
- Plan for next steps in establishing and engaging a learning community, establishing research priorities, and moving toward implementing research ideas and evaluation plan.
- Detailed budget for 18-month project of a maximum award not to exceed \$200,000, including timeline and benchmarks. Proposed award date January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
- Required materials should be submitted in a single .pdf file to [Jennifer.Henk@parentsasteachers.org](mailto:Jennifer.Henk@parentsasteachers.org) no later than 5pm Central Standard Time on November 15, 2023.