

ASCEND

Autism Support, Community, and Education in the Navajo Nation through the Diné Parents Taking Action Program (ASCEND)



WHAT IS PARENTS TAKING ACTION?

“Parents Taking Action” program developed by Sandy Magaña is an evidence-based parent education and training program designed to support families of children with autism by providing practical strategies and resources for managing autism-related challenges and promoting family well-being.

COMMUNITY NEED

This project will fill a critical need for culturally responsive individual- and group-based parent education and training for Diné families that have a child with autism in and around the Navajo Nation, where no programming of this type currently exists.

PROJECT AIMS

1. Sustain and spread Diné PTA using both individual (one-to-one) and group-based, hybrid delivery models in partnership with the Tuba City Regional Health Care autism clinic.
2. Determine project ASCEND’s feasibility, acceptability, and initial parent and child outcomes through a convergent mixed methods evaluation.
3. Embed autism education and training delivery for Diné families undergoing the diagnostic process.

AUTISM AT A GLANCE

- When a child displays challenges in these two categories, it is typically referred to as autism:
 - Difficulty with typical social communication
 - Repetitive behaviors and sensory issues
- Autism affects about 1 in 36 U.S. children, with significant financial and health impacts on their families.
- Access to services is challenging, especially for racial and ethnic minorities, including AI/AN families, who face systemic barriers and cultural mismatches in care.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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