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**Culturally Responsive Indigenous Evaluation:**

**A Practical Approach for Evaluating Indigenous Projects in Tribal Reservation Contexts**

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Abstract

Culturally responsive evaluations in Indigenous or Tribal government reservation geographic contexts are complex and multi-faceted studies. These contexts include the intersection of multiple legal jurisdictions across federal, state, and Tribal governments based on funding source(s) and implementation site(s). Additionally the cultural and linguistic components of Indigenous contexts vary greatly across communities where program evaluations are being conducted. Through a contemporary case example, the authors provide a framework for co-constructing a culturally responsive evaluation design and describe practical strategies for evaluating a federally funded program implemented within a Tribal government reservation context. Implications for replicating future culturally responsive evaluations are shared to move towards building a larger body of empirical studies guided by Indigenous evaluation frameworks, theories, and formal policies (i.e., the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights).

*Keywords:* culturally responsive evaluation, Indigenous evaluation, American Indian evaluation, Native American evaluation, Tribal government evaluation, multi-jurisdictional evaluation

**Introduction & Overview**

Theory, Research, and Policy Informing Culturally Responsive Indigenous Evaluation

The Political/Legal Context of Indigenous Evaluation

Sovereignty and self-determination

Multi-jurisdictional approaches to Indigenous evaluation

The Cultural/Traditional Context of Indigenous Evaluation

Evaluation and evaluators in the cultural/traditional context

Defining the cultural/traditional context

Components of the cultural/traditional context

*Access rights to knowledge.*

*Oral versus written knowledge transmission.*

*Social and political status.*

Benefits of incorporating the cultural/traditional context

**Culturally Responsive Evaluation: A Case Example**

Background

Evaluation Participants

Case Study Evaluation Design

Community collaborations

Cultural relevance

Dissemination

**Discussion**

“Indigenizing” Evaluation

Progress Toward Culturally Responsive Evaluation in the Indigenous Context