Advancing Best Practices and Cultural Relevance of HM&RF Programs for Indigenous Communities (I-HMRF)

Instrument 4. HM&RF and potential young adult participants: Photovoice Protocol

What are we hoping to learn from this activity?

(1) For sites where HM&RF services are currently offered, this data collection activity will engage current HM&RF participants—that are young adults between 18 and 24 years old—to provide insights into the benefits of HM&RF services and current barriers to service participation.

(2) For sites where HM&RF services are *not* currently offered, this data collection activity will engage potential HM&RF participants—that are young adults between 18 and 24 who are participating in other human service programs that might be eligible for HM&RF services—to provide insights into the benefits of these other community services and current barriers to service participation, as well as learn about ways that HM&RF services might or might not meet the needs of their community.

Activity assumptions

A facilitated photovoice process:

- Invite ~4-8 participants
- Plan for two sessions (at least one or both will likely be virtual) and pre-work requests:
    - One brief information session (~15-30 minutes)
    - Request signed consent and photo release forms
    - Suggest two photo prompts. Ask participant to select one photo and write 2-3 sentences about it before attending group reflection session.
    - One follow-up sharing and reflection session (~30-60 minutes)
- Token of appreciation ($50)

Pre-work

For any sites that serve young adult participants (between 18-24 years), the moderator will work with contacts in the selected site to identify participants who already have access to a camera (for example, via a personal smartphone).

Script for Information Session

Introduction to Photovoice

Thank you for sharing space with me today. My name is [NAME] and I work for an organization called Mathematica. Mathematica is an organization that is committed to improving public well-being and promoting a more equitable and just world. Thank you for your interest in participating in a process called photovoice, to learn about your experience with receiving [*IF HM&RF*: healthy marriage and/or responsible fatherhood] services from [PROGRAM] [*IF NON-HM&RF*: or other programs like it]. The photovoice process is a creative way for us to learn more about the services in your community and what additional services might be beneficial for young adults like you. Today, I'll share some information about what you can expect.

This activity is to support a project called the *Advancing Best Practices and Cultural Relevance of Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Programs for Indigenous Communities* project, or what we call I-HMRF. This project is sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Your participation in the photovoice activity is completely voluntary, and you may skip any of the suggested prompts. If you participate in the photovoice sessions, you will receive $50 to thank you for your participation. There are no known risks to joining today's conversation, and there is no penalty or consequence for deciding not to participate. There are also no right or wrong answers to the suggested prompts; we just want to learn about your perspectives based on your experience. We will use the information you share with us to write a summary of what we learned, but we will not attribute any of your comments or photos to you in our reports.

After today's information session, we will email you a consent and photo release form to review and complete. Once you have completed this form, we will send you two prompts to use for inspiration to take photos in your community. In a few weeks, we will schedule a follow-up session with everyone who agrees to participate to discuss and reflect on the photos you took. We expect this follow-up discussion to take about 30-60 minutes. We value the information you will share with us and want to make sure we capture it accurately by recording it. Only the team that is working on the study will have access to the recording and transcription. We will destroy the recording and the transcription at the end of the study.

Do you have any questions?

The rest of today's information session will include a brief introduction to photovoice. If you are not interested in participating, you may leave at any time. We thank you for your consideration.

Introduction to group and to photovoice

If you are interested in the photovoice process, we will cover a few details today.

First, please introduce yourself to the group by sharing your name, your Tribal affiliation or ancestry, and what roles you hold in your community. When I say role, I invite you think of any role that is important to you, whether that be professional or personal.

Thank you for those introductions! As I mentioned, after this session we will send you detailed consent and release forms to confirm your interest in participating. After you have completed those forms, we will ask you to take a few photos with these two prompts in mind:

- What is important to you about your current relationships? In other words, what do you value in your relationships?
- What makes your current relationships easy or hard?

After you have taken a few photos, we'll ask that you choose one photo for one of the prompts and write a few sentences about it. We'll then get together as a group again to talk about your photo and hear from each other about what you photographed and why.

When you're taking photos, we ask that you keep a few recommendations in mind:

- Think about what your photo is trying to convey. Is the picture or image clear?
- Consider the perspective of the photo. How might the angle or position of the photo change its meaning or focus?
- Finally, we ask that you do not take any *identifiable* photos of anyone to protect people's privacy. By identifiable, we mean that someone could easily recognize the person. This could include their face but also anything else that is unique to them, such as a tattoo.

Finally, if you are interested in participating but do not have access to a camera, please reach out to me via [INFORMATION].

Do you have any questions?

Thank you; we look forward to seeing you again soon!

Advancing Best Practices and Cultural Relevance of Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Programs for Indigenous Communities (I-HMRF)
Photovoice Consent Form

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today. Mathematica is an organization that is committed to improving public well-being and promoting a more equitable and just world. Thank you for your interest in participating in a process called photovoice to learn about your experience with receiving [IF HM&RF: healthy marriage and/or responsible fatherhood] services from [PROGRAM] [IF NON-HM&RF: or other programs like it]. The photovoice process is a creative way for us to learn more about the services in your community and what additional services might be beneficial for young adults like you. We would like to hear from you as part of this process.

This activity is to support a project called the *Advancing Best Practices and Cultural Relevance of Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Programs for Indigenous Communities* project, or what we call I-HMRF. This project is sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

What will I be doing?

As part of the photovoice process, we will ask you to take a few photos with these two prompts in mind:

1. What is important to you about your current relationships? In other words, what do you value in your relationships?
2. What makes your current relationships easy or hard?

After you have taken a few photos, we'll ask that you choose one photo for one of the prompts and write a few sentences about it. We will schedule a follow-up discussion session with everyone who agrees to participate to discuss and reflect on the photos you took. We expect this follow-up discussion to take about 30-60 minutes.

To thank you for your participation, we will email you a link after the session to a rewards site where you will receive $50. There are no known risks related to taking part in the interviews.

Will the follow-up discussion session be recorded?

We value the information you will share with us and want to make sure we capture it accurately by recording the discussion. Only the team that is working on the study will have access to the recording and transcription. We will destroy the recording and the transcription at the end of the study. However, we will only record the discussion if all participants consent to the recording.

How will you use my responses?

The responses during the discussion will help us understand your experience participating in [PROGRAM]. We will use the information you share with us to write a summary of what we learned to help other programs make their services more applicable to young adults like you. However, we will not attribute any of your comments to you in our reports.

Will anyone know how I respond to the discussion questions?

Members of the Mathematica study team will be able to see your responses to the discussion. We will not share your responses from the discussion with anyone else unless you give us permission.

What will happen with my photos?

We will ask you to show the one photo you select to write about with the group during the follow-up discussion to support the conversation. However, you will not be required to submit the photo to the study team unless you choose to do so. You will also be given the option to release the photo to the study team to use in publications, but this is also voluntary and will not affect your ability to participate in the discussion.

What if I do not want to take part in the activities?

Your participation in the photovoice activities is completely voluntary, and you may skip any questions you don't wish to answer or stop at any time. There are no known risks to participating, and there is no penalty or consequence for deciding not to participate. There are also no right or wrong answers to the questions we will ask; we would just like to hear your perspectives based on your experience.

Who can I talk to if I have questions about the study activities?

If you have any questions about the photovoice process, please email Kathleen Feeney at Mathematica at kfeeney@mathematica-mpr.com.

If you agree to take part in the study's photovoice activities, please read the following text and complete the questions below:

I have read and understand the above information. Someone from the Mathematica team will email me a copy of my responses to this form. I agree to take part in the photovoice activities described here. I understand that I may undo this agreement at any time without penalty.

Do you consent to participate in the study?

- o Yes
- o No

Do you consent to record the follow-up discussion?

- o Yes
- o No

Type your name here as your signature: _____

Date: _____

Best email address to contact you: _____

Best phone number to contact you: _____

Do you have access to a device that takes photos (such as a smartphone or camera)?

- o Yes
- o No

Thank you; we look forward to speaking with you soon!

*This collection of information is voluntary and will be used to inform future program development related to HMRF Indigenous grantees. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average **67.5** minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number and expiration date for this collection are OMB #: 0970-0531, Exp: 9/30/2025. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Lauren Tingey; LTingey@mathematica-mpr.com.*

Script for Follow-up Sharing and Reflection Session

Thank you for sharing space with me today and participating in this photovoice activity. We're looking forward to seeing your photos and hearing about what they mean to you.

[Reiterate key consent and release form points and confirm permission to record this discussion].

Before we start, I'd like to agree on some shared norms for our discussion.

- This will be an informal discussion. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions. We are interested in learning everyone's perspective.
- There may be times in the discussion when you have different opinions than other people do, and that is okay. We want to hear all opinions.
- There will be no formal breaks, so please feel free to step away whenever you need to.
- We would like one person to talk at a time so we can understand everyone clearly, but we hope each of you will share your thoughts at some point.
- We also ask you to respect each other's privacy and not share what we talk about here with anyone else.

There is a lot we look forward to asking you about, so I may change the subject or move the discussion ahead from time to time, just to keep the conversation moving. Please know that if we do this it is only to make sure we can cover all questions today. But if you feel like after the conversation there is more you would like to speak about on a particular topic, please feel free to reach out to us. [*IF IN-PERSON:* We will provide our contact information on a handout. / *IF VIRTUAL:* We have attached a contact information handout document to this virtual meeting invitation]. Your thoughts matter to us.

Anything else to add to our shared norms before we begin?

Do you have any questions before we start?

[If permission granted by all participants, start recording].

Participant Re-Introductions

Please re-introduce yourself to the group by sharing your name, your Tribal affiliation or ancestry, and what roles you hold in your community. When I say role, I invite you think of any role that is important to you, whether that be professional or personal.

Photo sharing and reflection

Thank you all for these re-introductions! Now I'd like to ask each of you to talk about the photos you took for the suggested prompts.

1. First, please describe your photo.
    a. What is your photo of?

b. What is happening in your photo?

c. Why did you take this photo to respond to this prompt?

d. What was your experience of taking photos?

Themes and inspiration for change

Thank you for sharing these photos and your experiences. As a group, I'd like to hear others' reactions after this share-out.

2. What common themes or patterns did you notice?
    a. Where were there departures from those themes or patterns?
3. What do you think makes a strong, healthy relationship?
    a. What makes your relationships easier? Harder?
4. How has your participation in [PROGRAM] changed your current relationships, if at all?
    a. Do you *act* differently in relationships based on what you've learned in this program? If so, can you give me an example of how your actions have changed?
    b. Do you *think* differently about your relationships based on what you've learned? If so, can you give me an example?

Finally, I'd like for us to think about how this experience might inspire change in the future.

5. What have you noticed has been helpful for you in strengthening your relationships?
    a. What have you noticed has been helpful for others?
6. How do you think this program could better support you in making your relationships strong and healthy?
    a. What supports does your community need to help make relationships strong?
    b. What strengths do you already have that can be expanded or deepened?

Closure

Those are all the questions I have today.

7. Any final comments, thoughts, or questions anyone would like to share before we wrap up?

[*IF IN-PERSON:* We will provide our contact information on a handout; / *IF VIRTUAL*: We will share a link in the chat] to provide optional anonymous feedback if you have anything else you would like to share with us after the session.

Thank you for sharing your photos and experiences!