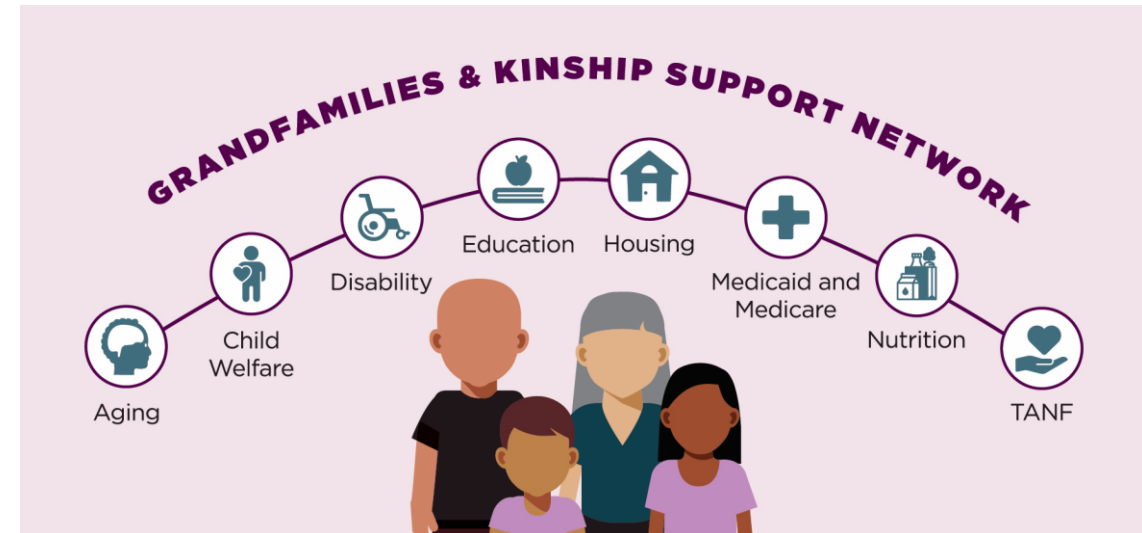


WELCOME

Collaboration Strategies For Tribes, or Non-Native Service Providers Working with Tribes, to Support Kinship/Grandfamilies May 10, 2023

- We will begin at the top of the hour
- Please type in the **chat** - your name, state, tribe (if applicable), and role
- We'll pause for questions throughout – please type your questions in the chat box at any time
- All participants will receive a link to the slides and recording by the end of the week

- 5-year (2021-2026), \$10-million cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living
- Generations United has worked on behalf of and with kinship/grandfamilies since 1997
- Purpose is to provide technical assistance to the array of tribal, state, and territorial government agencies and organizations that serve kinship families
- Not designed to help the families directly – working to improve systems for families



How We Help



Learning Collaboratives and Information Dissemination

The Network hosts [webinars](#) and facilitates learning collaboratives.



Individual Assistance

We respond to [individual requests for help](#) from government agencies, and nonprofit organizations.



Targeted, Specialized Support

For jurisdictions that want and are ready for a larger investment of effort, the Network will help optimize their collaborative approaches and improve their services. Solutions will be replicable for others.



A Centralized Hub

The Network is elevating exemplary kinship/grandfamily practices and programs from around the country on its new accessible website, www.GKSNetwork.org.

The First-Ever National Technical Assistance Center for those who Serve Kinship/Grandfamilies

We help government agencies and nonprofits in states, tribes, and territories work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries to improve supports and services for families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children.



State and Tribal GrandFacts

GrandFacts: Fact Sheets

The GrandFacts fact sheets for grandfamilies include data and programs as well as information about public benefits, educational assistance, legal relationship options and laws for each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



GRANDFACTS

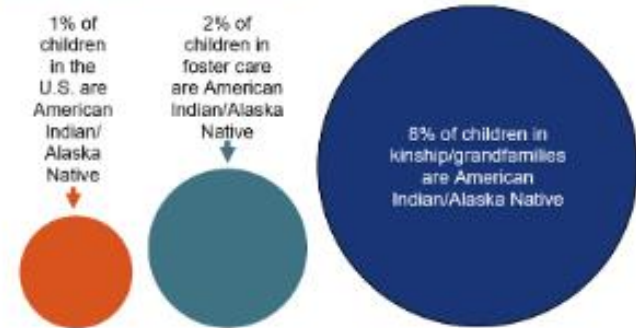
PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBAL FACT SHEET FOR KINSHIP/GRANDFAMILIES

This fact sheet includes national data and information on Port Gamble S'Klallam tribal-specific programs that can assist kinship/grandfamilies. GrandFacts fact sheets for each state and the District of Columbia are also available [online](#).

American Indian and Alaska Native Children Disproportionately Live in Kinship/Grandfamilies

While the overrepresentation of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children in kinship/grandfamilies is likely a product of the centuries-long shameful treatment of this community by the United States and the many inequities this community continues to face, it is also a reflection of their cultural strengths and resilience.

Kinship/Grandfamilies Data¹



¹ The data presented in this graphic is from the United States Census Bureau, the Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS).



< Resources

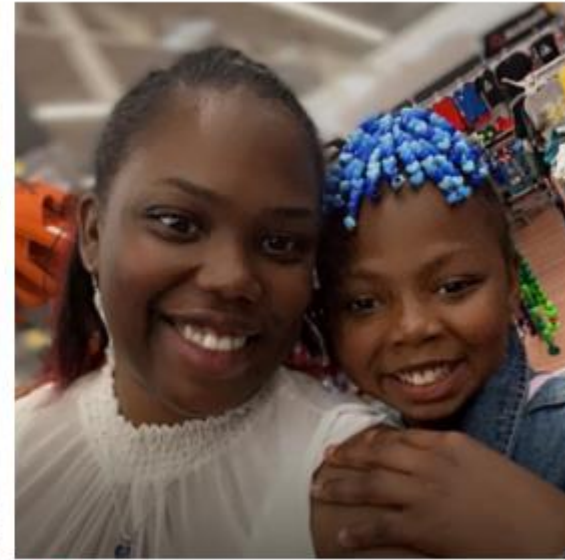
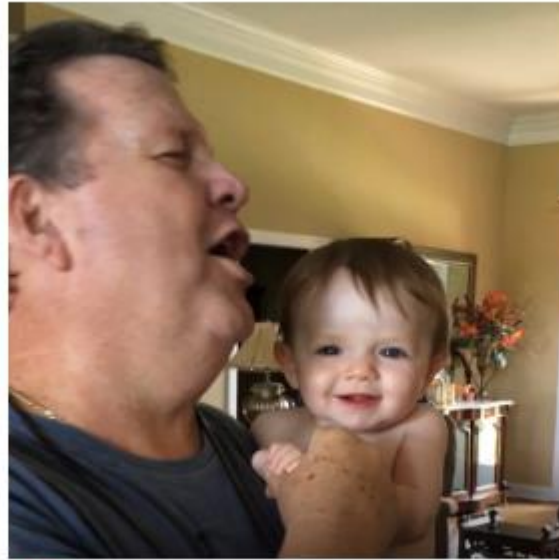
FACT SHEET

Kinship/Grandfamilies: Strengths and Challenges

Download This Resource

Imagine you are a child. In the middle of the night, your mom drops you off at your grandma's house to live. Your mom and dad can't care for you anymore. Their alcohol use has made it impossible to parent. You're glad to be with your grandma because it feels safe and comfortable at her house, but you're worried about some things. Where will you go to school? How will you get your asthma medicine? Can your grandma get it for you? Will your mom and dad be okay?

Caregiver Videos





< Resources

TIP SHEET

Tips to Include Kinship/Grandfamilies in Programmatic Decision-Making

[Download This Resource](#)

Increasingly, government and nonprofit leaders are recognizing the value of engaging individuals with lived experience when creating and enhancing programs and services. Programs and services are more effective, trusted, and used when they intentionally draw on the perspectives of those they seek to serve.



< Resources

TIP SHEET

Connecting with Families in Black and Indigenous Communities

Download This Resource

A Network Monthly Resource: May 2023

Kin/grandfamily caregivers' ideas about their roles in protecting and providing for the children in their care depend on their families' values and cultures.

Working with Black and Indigenous families requires knowledge of culture and context. Some questions to think about:

Stay Connected & Access Support

Sign up for our monthly newsletter, which will provide you with updates on new Network resources.





The Network is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$9,950,000 with 95 percentage funded by ACL/HHS and \$523,684 and 5 percentage funded by non-government sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Collaboration With and Among Tribes for Grandfamilies & Kinship Family Support

Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network Webinar Series



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Terry L. Cross, DHL, MSW, ACSW, LCSW
Seneca Nation
Founder and Senior Advisor
NICWA

What to Expect

- A review of the basics of collaboration
- What tribes might want to consider regarding collaboration internally
- Collaboration issues between tribes and other governments or non-profits



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Learning Objectives

This webinar will help you:

- Be able to discuss why grandfamilies and relative care providers can benefit from collaborative approaches among tribes, or between tribes and non-Native government or private service providers
- Become familiar with principles that support successful cross-cultural and cross-jurisdiction collaboration
- Be able to explore and weigh several issues when planning a collaboration among or with tribes.



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What Is Collaboration?

- A strategy that enhances an agency or department's strengths and expands its ability to accomplish its mission
- A decision to work jointly for a common cause
- Cooperation resulting in each agency, program or department benefiting and giving better service
- Collaboration supports and honors tribal sovereignty and culture through more holistic services



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Key Points

- Collaborating programs develop a shared vision for positive outcomes
- Collaborative programs develop processes for joint work and strategies to sustain them
- Collaborating programs budget with collaboration in mind
- Collaborating partners are accountable to each other and set up routine check-ins
- Collaborating partners adapt to needs of the community, families, and children



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Why Collaborate?

- Children get better care when the adults in their lives cooperate!
- It works in families, and it works in systems
- Scarce resources
- Grandfamily challenges are complex
- Every family matters!



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Check in 

Collaboration Challenges

- Conflicting values
- Historic distrust
- Implicit bias
- Funding silos
- Information sharing barriers



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Collaboration Challenges

- Potential to compromise organizational integrity
- Risk of damage to reputation
- Boundary issues



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What Helps Collaboration Work?

- Collaboration honors the autonomy of each partnering department
- Partners respect that each other's staff are under the direction of that department's management
- Partner's feedback or perspectives respect autonomy
- Partners rely on written agreements and clear obligations



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What Helps Collaboration Work?

- Partners respect internal processes, time challenges, and workload
- Partners maintain confidentiality resolving issues with discretion
- Partners value the role that the partner brings as essential to mission
- Partners give each other the benefit of the doubt when something goes wrong



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Check in

Internal Collaboration Issues for Tribes



A decision
to act jointly



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Cultural Basis for Collaboration

- Culture and economy based on abundance
- Abundance depends on gratitude, sharing, and stewardship
- Every decision made with the 7th generation in mind
- Responsibilities of care for children was shared by everyone
- Governed by customary law



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Linear Child Welfare Model

- Waits for bruises, neglect, abandonment
- Oriented to rescue the child
 - Children are seen as deserving help and protection
- Oriented to regulate parental behavior
 - Parents are seen as flawed and responsible for their situation
 - “Case plan” usually consist of conditions parents must meet

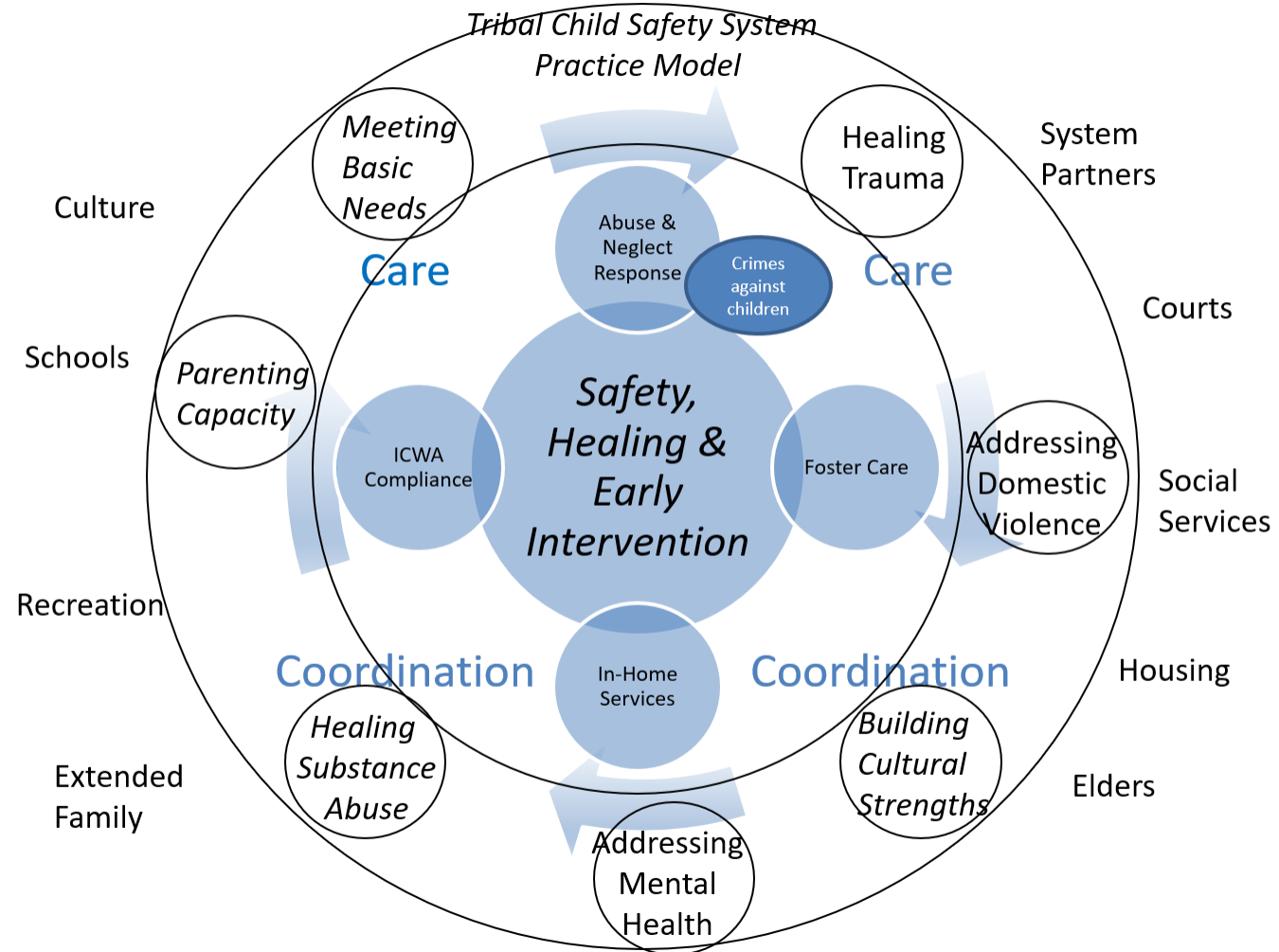


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Relational, Holistic (Tribal) Child Safety Model

Builds
and
Supports
Strong
Families



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Key Elements of Collaboration

- Underlying values
- Daily practice: healing
- Daily practice: support
- Daily practice: assisting children
- Building community and family supports
- Joint accountability and shared outcome
- Linking information systems
- Training/staff development
- Budgeting/program sustainability
- Working with related agencies



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Collaboration in Practice

- Ensures care coordination
- Process facilitates who does what, when
- A partnership with the grandfamily that builds strength and self-reliance
- A process of engaging helping resources
- An opportunity to build rapport and a helping alliance



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Communications

- Who talks to who about what?
 - Budget, resources, staffing
 - Policy, administrative issues
 - Conflicts, decision making
 - Scheduling, timing of services
 - Cases, screening, assessments, etc.
- What does open communication mean?



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Structuring Collaboration: Options

- Charter
- By-laws
- MOU
- Protocol
 - Value based
 - Verbal agreement
 - Vested in relationship, role, leadership



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Authority to Collaborate

- Authority in government programs comes from law and policy
- Authority in a nonprofit comes from the founding documents and by-laws
- Be explicit with authority to collaborate
- Write it into policy



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Check in

Cross-cultural Collaboration Issues



A decision to act jointly



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Touchstones of Hope

- Self-determination
- Culture and language
- Holistic approach
- Structural interventions
- Non-discrimination



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Fundamental Principle

- When multiple jurisdictions are involved, the relationship is

“Government to Government”



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Implementation Considerations— Does this Collaboration...?

- Enhance tribal capacity to provide services?
- Enhance tribal capacity to attract and manage resources?
- Improve and expand state and local political will and capacity to engage tribal services?
- Foster and support a collaborative leadership model for tribal state relations?



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Roles of Leadership in Collaboration

- Facilitation – making easier
- Holding space
- Risk tolerance
- Giving away the problem
- Building and protecting relationships



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NICWA Collaboration Principles

- “Win-Win” or no deal
- No collaboration that might diminish tribal sovereignty
- No compromise on fundamental positions or policy issues
- Staff take direction from their own leadership
- Work and budget are written down
- Facilitate growth, communicate, forgive



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If You Value Collaboration

Lay the groundwork

Decide what it looks like

Pay attention to the building blocks



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Grow Opportunities

- Reach out to further develop linkages and relationships
- Communicate your mission, vision, services
- Attend conferences of potential partners
- Serve on committees, boards or as an officer of potential partner organizations
- Present on policy issues or services at major meetings
- Participate on or facilitate task groups
- Gathering information on funding prospects for project collaboration
- Influence the policy agenda of potential partners



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Building Blocks for Collaboration

- Documented needs
- Readiness/urgency
- Funder buy-in
- Trauma informed
- Care coordination design
- Screening tools
- Common assessment
- Open communication
- Confidentiality
- Shared case plans



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Building Blocks for Collaboration

- Data sharing
- Leadership support
- Staff buy-in
- Training/TA/Cross-training
- Budgeting/funding
- Shared vision
- Cultural integrity
- Commitment to healing
- Respect for others' missions
- Clear collaboration principles



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Check in

In Summary Consider This

Should We Collaborate?



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Should We Collaborate?

- Is this collaboration a win-win situation?
- Does this collaboration support and honor tribal sovereignty?
- Does this collaboration honor the autonomy of each partner?
- Do the potential partners respect that your staff are under your direction?
- Are the potential partner's opinions, feedback, or express perspectives offered with respect?



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Should We Collaborate?

- Will the potential partner rely on written obligations for accountability?
- Does the potential partner adhere to clear procedures regarding budget changes, changes in scope of work, or project strategies?
- If funding is involved, do they pay on time?
- Does the potential partner respect your internal process, time and workload obligation?



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Should We Collaborate?

- Will the potential partner maintain confidentiality and resolves issues with discretion?
- Does the potential partner value mutual enhancement of each organization's mission?
- Will the potential partner give you the benefit of the doubt and expect the same when things get hard?



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Should We Collaborate?

- Will families/grandfamilies benefit more if you do?
- Do you have the time and energy to do the work of collaboration effectively?
- Can you tolerate the risk?
- Can you push back if needed?



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Discussion Questions

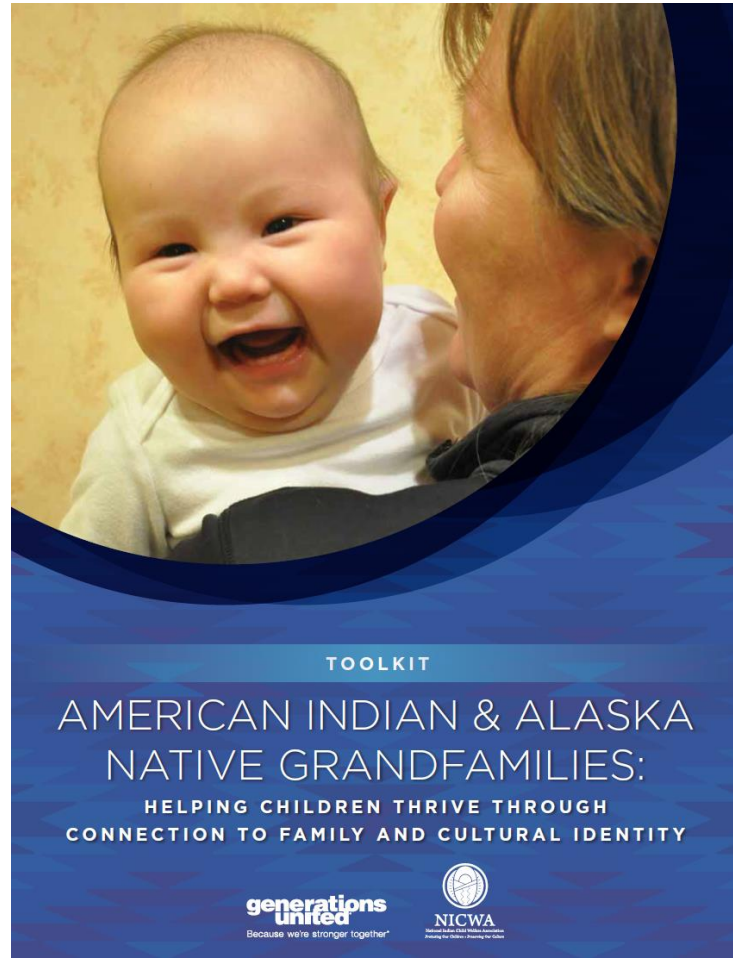
- What opportunities do you have for inter-departmental or inter-agency collaboration?
- What are the barriers?
 - Policy
 - Practice
 - Relationships
 - Values



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Resources



Native Grandfamilies Toolkit

<https://www.nicwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/AIAN-Toolkit-WEB.pdf>

or

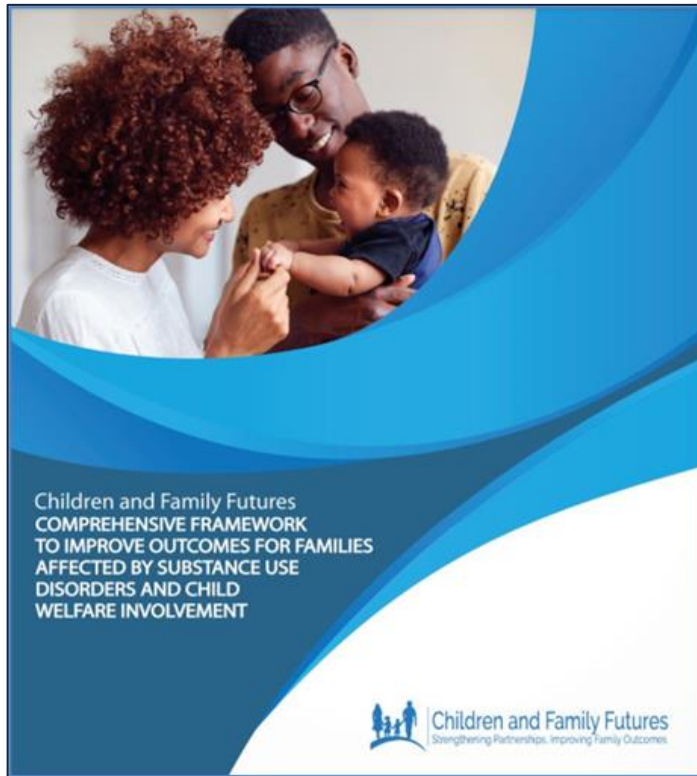
<https://www.gu.org/racial-equity-toolkits-featuring-grandfamilies/>



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Resources



[Building Collaborative Series](#)




NICW

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[Comprehensive Framework to Improve Outcomes
for Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders
and Child Welfare Involvement](#)

Resources



**Tribal TANF—Child Welfare Coordination:
Collaboration Assessment Tool**

OPRE Report 2020-40

March 2020

TTCW
Tribal TANF—
Child Welfare

Tribal TANF—Child Welfare Coordination:
Collaboration Assessment Tool
OPRE Report 2020-40
March 2020

Submitted to:
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<https://www.jbassoc.com/resource/tribal-tanf-child-welfare-coordination-collaboration-assessment-tool/>

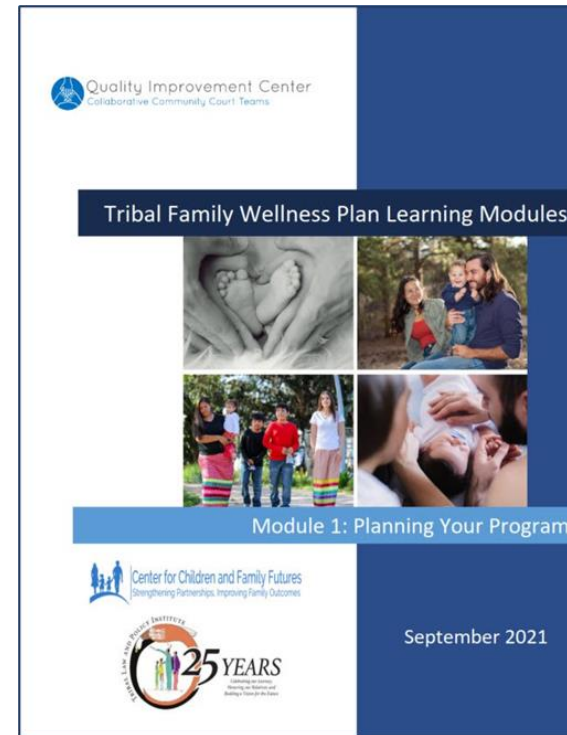


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Resources



[Tapping Tribal Wisdom:
Providing Collaborative Care for
Native Pregnant Women with
Substance Use Disorders and Their Infants](#)



[Tribal Family Wellness
Plan Learning Modules](#)



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Thank you!



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