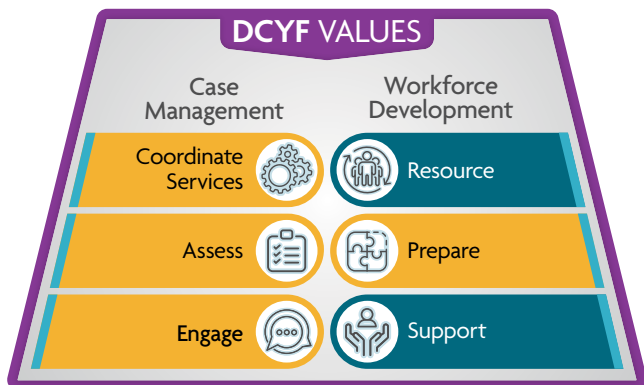


Thriving Families: Indian Child Welfare Policy Redesign

This project will revise the Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Policies and Procedures Manual, and applicable DCYF ICW forms and ICW trainings to strengthen practice in alignment with the federal and state Indian Child Welfare Act to achieve better outcomes for Native American children and families.



FAMILY PRACTICE MODEL FRAMEWORK



INCLUSION • RESPECT • INTEGRITY • COMPASSION • TRANSPARENCY

How will families be supported?

Native American families involved in the state child welfare system will be supported to maintain or reunite their child with their family through active efforts when there is reason to know that a child is or may be Native American.

How will staff be supported?

Staff will receive training on the revised ICW policies and procedures through the Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence.

How do we demonstrate we are prioritizing prevention?

Active efforts are intended to safely keep Indian children with their families rather than remove them and place them in an out-of-home placement. In addition, services are to be delivered in a culturally relevant manner and tailored to the unique aspects of a case.

How are we reducing disparities?

By following the Best Interest of the Children Principle, we are:

- Protecting the safety, well-being, development, and stability of Indian children.
- Preventing the unnecessary out-of-home placement of Indian children.
- DCYF is committed to a government-to-government approach through consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes of Washington State, and to work in collaboration with Recognized American Indian Organizations and individual American Indians and Alaska Natives to ensure quality and comprehensive service delivery to all Indian children and families served.
- Recognizing the value to the Indian child of establishing, developing, or maintaining a political, cultural, social, and spiritual relationship with the Indian child's tribe and tribal community.
- When out of home placement is necessary, make a good faith effort to follow the tribes placement preference when possible.

*This project is part of the **Thriving Families** campaign, which is made up of multiple ongoing projects in the child welfare space. **Thriving Families** will allow DCYF to strengthen its work with children and families, and support staff. The campaign will improve outcomes for families by safely reducing the number of children in out-of-home placements, supporting families so children remain safely at home, placing children with kin if they cannot remain safely at home, and ensuring placements are safe, stable, and support permanency.*

DCYF does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, age, veteran's status, or presence of any physical, sensory, or mental disability.

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