



First Children First Nations Child Care Collaborative

First Children's Finance (FCF) and Indigenous Visioning (IV) have partnered to create the First Children, First Nations Child Care Collaborative (FCFN) and launch an innovative community engagement process designed to increase the supply of high quality, affordable culturally relevant child care in tribal communities. The purpose of consultation is to guide communities in identifying the scope and size of their child care challenges, and to empower and support tribal communities to develop local solutions to address these challenges.

Strengthen existing early care and education businesses, ensuring that children have continuity of care that prepares them for success in school and beyond

Expand the availability of quality culturally relevant child care by creating new and innovative community solutions

Increase the public awareness of early care and education's role in healthy communities

The outcome of the FCFN community engagement process is to develop right-sized solutions to increase the supply of high quality affordable child care in sovereign native nations and tribal communities. Tribal communities who engage with FCFN for community consultation services will experience: 1) an increase of child care slots and, 2) increased sustainability of child care and early education programs in the community.

The consultation includes sustainable strategies to build supply including, but not limited to:

- a supply-demand gap analysis of child care slots for the selected community
- community education events to inform the private sector and tribal government officials of the link between high quality child care, economic development, and healthy communities
- community solution action plans to drive implementation of innovative ideas
- technical assistance regarding right-sized, financially sustainable business models
- public-private partnerships and employer-child care partnerships to expand and preserve supply
- support partnerships between county and tribal child care licensing
- economic development expertise and technical assistance
- technical assistance on local policy and financial incentives, tribal child care standards/policies
- facilitation of a Learning Network of Tribal Communities, and
- documentation of successful business models and partnerships.

The tribal community consultation process includes the following specific activities:

DISCOVERY PHASE

- An application and/or orientation process for communities identifies an **Indigenous Core Team** who provides local leadership to recruitment, engagement and implementation efforts. The **Indigenous Core Team** has a Core Team Leader, who provides local leadership and serves as a main point of contact with FCFN.

- The **Indigenous Core Team** participates in orientation and planning process with FCFN to compile and review available data and gather community input, determine project timelines and recruit community involvement.
- FCFN assists the Core Team and local leaders to complete a self-assessment process to identify community child care needs.
- FCFN reviews all available data and information to help a community determine the scope of the community's child care challenges.
- FCFN facilitates focus groups with existing family child care providers and center directors within the community and invites them to participate in an event that provides an overview of the process, gathers feedback about the current state of child care, and shares information about their business success.
- FCFN provides training, business consultation and coaching to licensed child care program professionals/owners or tribal child care programs.
- The tribal community participates in a Community Gathering where they review the supply-demand gap analysis prepared by FCFN and participate in a consensus workshop to generate innovative ideas to address the child care shortage and converge on solutions. The **Community Gathering results in the creation of a Community Solution Action Plan.**

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

- The Indigenous Core Team begins to implement solutions identified in the Community Solution Action Plan with technical assistance, implementation support, and coaching from FCFN. Implementation support is provided for 12 months after the publication of the Community Solution Action Plan. The Indigenous Core Team reports regularly on progress toward implementation.
- FCFN serves as a resource to the tribal community to support the tribe's early childhood programming, such as CCDF plan, tribal child care licensing, child care assistance, professional development, quality improvement, curriculum, quality rating, culture/language or trauma-informed care, accessing grants.
- To support ongoing capacity-building and innovation, FCFN enrolls each participating tribal community into a national **Learning Network of Tribal Communities**. Indigenous Core Team members have access to quarterly webinars and special events highlighting innovative solutions to deepen the shared knowledge of the network.
- Throughout the community engagement process, IV/FCF documents case studies of successful business models. This information is distributed via our websites, community events, the **Learning Network of Tribal Communities** webinars, and convening events.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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