

Being Active in Your Efforts



- Conduct a **comprehensive assessment** of the circumstances of the Indian child's family, with a focus on **safe reunification** as the most desirable goal;
- Identify **appropriate services** and help the parents to **overcome barriers**, including **actively assisting** the parents in obtaining such services;
- Identify, notify, and invite** representatives of the **Indian child's Tribe** to participate in providing **support and services** to the Indian child's family and in child and family team meetings(permanency planning), and resolution of placement issues;
- Conduct or cause to be conducted a **diligent search** for the Indian child's extended family members, and contact and **consult with extended family members** to provide family **structure and support** for the Indian child and the Indian child's parents;
- Offer and employ all available and **culturally appropriate family preservation strategies** and facilitate the use of remedial and rehabilitative services provided by the child's Tribe;
- Take steps to keep **siblings together** whenever possible;
- Support **regular visits** with parents or Indian custodians in the **most natural setting** possible as well as **trial home visits** of the Indian child during **any period of removal**, consistent with the need to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the child;
- Identify **community resources** including housing, financial, transportation, mental health, substance abuse, and peer support services and **actively assisting** the Indian child's parents or, when appropriate, the child's family, in **utilizing and accessing** those resources;
- Monitor** progress and participation in services;
- Consider **alternative ways** to address the needs of the Indian child's parents and, where appropriate, the family, if the optimum services do not exist or are not available;
- Provide **post-reunification** services and monitoring.

Engaging Families: Agents of Change

Rapport building - demonstrating genuine care and concern.

Active listening and acknowledgement of family circumstances.

Asking questions until true understanding has been achieved.

A non-judgmental environment regardless of circumstances.

Client input in case plan. If children are old enough consider their wishes.

Unconditional motivational support - you might be the only one who believes in them.

Provide culturally responsive services. Don't be afraid to learn from your families.

Be transparent with case related information.

Communication in a timely manner is **ESSENTIAL**.

Awareness of services and supports available to assist the family. Stay up-to-date.

Engage other meaningful adults to assist in the process of making change.
The bigger the support system the greater likelihood of success.

Provide training in performing tasks.

Seek overt commitment to task and goals.

