

Child Welfare Program Assessment

A program assessment is a process in which organizations, such as tribal child welfare programs, gather and analyze information to determine whether or not and to what degree the program is meeting its agency mission and generally how well the services are conducted as perceived by staff, community agency partners, families and youth served by the organization. The assessment provides an overview of components of the program and how well it provides services to the tribal community and its members.

Program assessments are conducted with the help of outside consultants. For this assessment, two consultants will spend time at the tribal program and in the community to meet with a variety of staff, community partners and stakeholders, tribal ICWA directors, foster parents, community members and others who are part of the service network of the child welfare program. A part of the assessment also includes reviewing organizational documents, such as reports, etc., to learn how services are provided and documented.

Once the interviews and reviews are completed, a written report is prepared and a draft is submitted to the program director who requested the assessment. Together the consultants and director will review the plan to assure that the content reflects the discussions that were held.

The approach is a 'strengths-based' and the assessment is not designed to be punitive in any way. Instead, unbiased facilitators and interviewers gather information and provide a 'snapshot' of the child welfare services from an external point of view and offer recommendations to the tribal program leadership for continued program improvement.

Timeframe

Program assessments are generally conducted over a period of three days with two consultant facilitators on site.

For More Information:

Kathy Deserly
Associate Director
NRC4Tribes
Kathy@NRC4Tribes.org
406-431-5941

Joseph J. Walker
Tribal Child Welfare Specialist
NRC4Tribes
Joe@NRC4Tribes.org
323-533-1171



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