

TRANSFORMING CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES FOR ALASKA NATIVE CHILDREN

STRATEGIC PLAN: 2016-2020

Vision: Alaska Native culture keeps Alaska Native children safe.

Mission: Alaska Native children, families and communities are thriving through respectful government-to-government collaboration, community leadership, and aligned systems of care.

Values:

- We believe Alaska Native families and communities are the best place for Alaska Native children to thrive
- We believe Alaska Native children are the future of thriving Alaska Native cultures
- We believe providing care for Alaska Native children as close to home as possible achieves better outcomes
- We believe the values and spirit encompassed in the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) are in the best interest of Alaska Native children
- We believe it is vital that all partners involved in the welfare of Alaska Native children commit to engage in courageous, transparent and forgiving conversations without fear of reprisal
- We believe in the strength of partnership and collaboration, and our work will be conducted in coordination with the Tribal State Collaboration and other concurrent initiatives aimed at improving the lives of Alaska Native children and families
- We recognize the inherent right of Tribes to manage their own child welfare systems

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Respectful Government-to-Government Collaboration & Partnership	Self-Governance	Embrace & Implement the Spirit of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)	State Government Alignment	Community Engagement	Culturally Specific Services and Supports
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GOALS

<i>Achieve formal, friendly and forever recognition of Tribes by the State</i>	<i>Tribes self-govern the welfare of their children, and have the resources to do so</i>	<i>Embrace the spirit and values of ICWA to ensure Alaska Native children are with their families and community</i>	<i>Ensure state government systems are aligned and services provided based on the values and spirit of ICWA</i>	<i>Alaska's child welfare system operates as a partnership among the community, Tribes, State and Federal governments to keep Alaska Native children in their family and culture</i>	<i>Provide a continuum of culturally specific supports that ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of Alaska Native children</i>
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OBJECTIVES

<p>A1: Develop and implement a Truth and Reconciliation process</p> <p>A2: Achieve formal recognition of Tribes by the State</p> <p>A3: Institutionalize Tribal Consultation with mutual power, authority, and decision-making</p> <p>A4: Establish enforceable agreements built on true collaboration and mutual cooperation</p> <p>A5: Align systems so that Tribal processes are respected and interactions are conducted with mutual respect between sovereign leaders</p>	<p>B1: Clearly define the role and responsibilities of the Tribe, state and federal government as it relates to child welfare and align state agencies to support a smooth transition to self-governance</p> <p>B2: Ensure Tribes have the opportunity to design their own models for addressing the welfare of their children</p> <p>B3: Create a resource development plan to develop and maintain Tribal capacity and ensure parity of resources</p> <p>B4: Compact Child Welfare Services with Tribes</p> <p>B5: Resolve sovereign immunity issues</p>	<p>C1: End institutional racism</p> <p>C2: Educate and advocate for policy and practice changes to align the interpretation of ICWA with the original legislative intent</p> <p>C3: Increase the number of children placed with family in their own communities and create and implement processes that support this goal</p> <p>C4: Improve awareness of the positive outcomes achieved as a result of Tribal participation in the judicial process</p>	<p>D1: Align agencies towards the shared value that protecting children is everyone's responsibility</p> <p>D2: Promote increased flexibility, coordination and collaboration across government to ensure effective and efficient allocation of resources and delivery of services</p> <p>D3: Identify and reduce barriers to collaboration and alignment</p> <p>D4: Research mechanisms for providing improved access to services for children and families</p>	<p>E1: Foster a better understanding of each community and partner's ability and responsibility to transform child welfare outcomes for Alaska Native children</p> <p>E2: Ensure communication among all partners is open, honest, and transparent</p> <p>E3: Help front-line workers meaningfully and respectfully engage with local Tribes</p> <p>E4: Solicit and incorporate feedback from the community</p> <p>E5: Provide continuity in engagement and interaction with families</p>	<p>F1: Collaboratively develop, implement and align individualized, culturally specific service plans</p> <p>F2: Support the availability and accessibility of a continuum of culturally specific services for children and families in their community, including focus on primary prevention and early intervention</p> <p>F3: Ensure systems, institutions and the OCS workforce are reflective of the culture and the community served</p> <p>F4: Address funding obstacles related to provision of culturally-specific services</p>
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