GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK
A National Technical Assistance Center

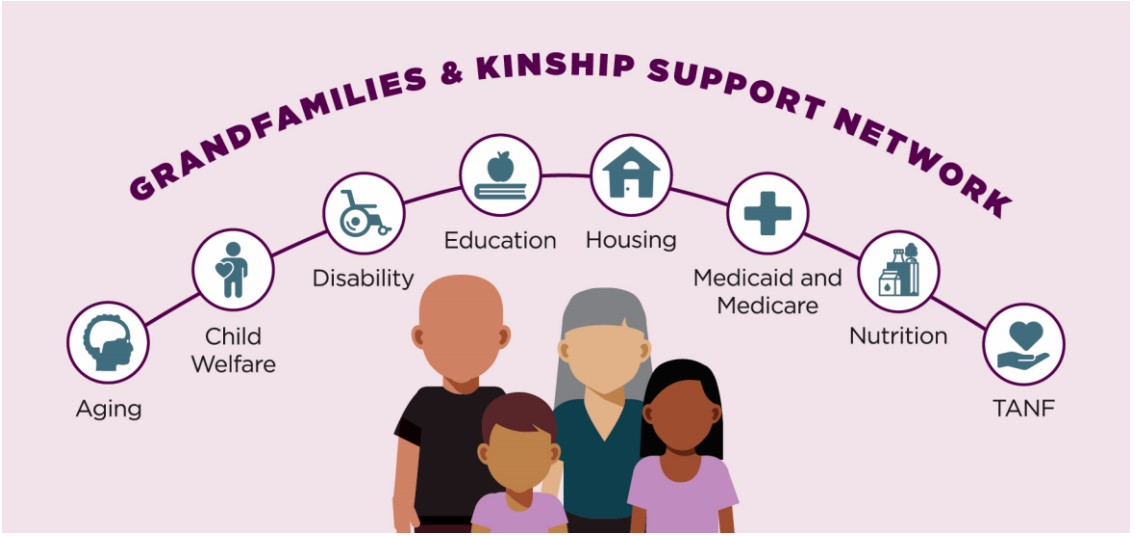
WELCOME

Collaboration for Grandfamilies & Kinship Family Support

- We will begin at the top of the hour
- Please type in the chat - your name, state, tribe (if applicable), and role
- We'll pause for questions throughout – you can ask in the chat at any time
- As comfortable, please turn on your video

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK
A National Technical Assistance Center

- 5-year (2021-2026), $10-million cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living
- Generations United has worked on behalf of and with kinship/grandfamilies since 1997
- Purpose is to provide technical assistance to the array of government agencies (aging, child welfare, disability, education, housing, Medicare and Medicaid, nutrition, TANF) and organizations that serve kinship families, including kinship navigator programs
- Not designed to help the families directly – working to improve systems for families



Sign up to access the Network:

generations united
Because we're stronger together®

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK
A National Technical Assistance Center

The Network is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $9,950,000 with 95 percentage funded by ACL/HHS and $523,684 and 5 percentage funded by non-government sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

How We Help

Learning Collaboratives and Information Dissemination

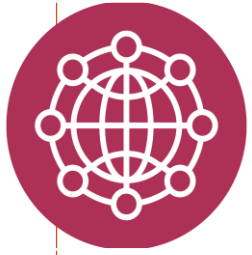
The Network hosts webinars and facilitates learning collaboratives.

Individual Assistance

We respond to individual requests for help from government agencies, kinship navigators, and community-based nonprofits.

Targeted, Specialized Support

For jurisdictions that want and are ready for a larger investment of effort, the Network will help optimize their collaborative approaches and improve their services. Solutions will be replicable for others.



A Centralized Hub

The Network is elevating exemplary kinship/grandfamily practices and programs from around the country on its accessible website to launch mid-September 2022 - www.GKSNetwork.org (link not active yet).

National Partners

Child TRENDS

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

NKBA

USAging
Leaders in Aging Well at Home

ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

Collaboration for Grandfamilies & Kinship Family Support

Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network Webinar Series

Terry L. Cross, MSW, ACSW, LCSW
Seneca Nation
Founder and Senior Advisor
NICWA

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

What Is Collaboration?

- A strategy that enhances an agency or department's strengths and expands its ability to accomplish its mission
- A decision to work jointly for a common cause
- Cooperation resulting in each agency, program or department benefiting and giving better service
- Collaboration supports and honors tribal sovereignty and culture through more holistic services

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Key Points

- Collaborating programs develop a shared vision for positive outcomes
- Collaborative programs develop processes for joint work and work to sustain them
- Collaborating programs budget with collaboration in mind
- Collaborating partners are accountable to each other and set up routine check-ins
- Collaborating partners adapt to needs of the community, families, and children

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Why Collaborate?

- Children get better care when the adults in their lives cooperate!
- It works in families, and
- It works in systems

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Check in

More Reasons to Collaborate

- Families get better services when services are coordinated
- Resources are scarce and duplication or poorly coordinated services are wasteful

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

More Reasons to Collaborate

- Challenges that grandfamilies face are too complex to solve without a comprehensive, coordinated, holistic approach providing an array of services that address loss, grief, healing, housing, income, etc.,
- Every family kinship/grandfamily is important and deserves support

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Child Welfare Services

- Grandfamilies receive very few poverty reduction services
- Grandfamilies receive few housing-related services
- Grandfamilies receive few mental health services
- Grandfamilies receive few substance abuse treatment services

Check in

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

An Example: Collaboration Strategy

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association

Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Comprehensive Framework to Improve Outcomes for Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders and Child Welfare Involvement: *Systems-Level Efforts*

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

Comprehensive Framework to Improve Outcomes for Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders and Child Welfare Involvement: *Practice Level Efforts*

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

Key Shared Outcomes

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

Fundamentals for Improved Practice

- Consistently screen for trauma, substance use disorders, prenatal substance exposure, and DV, and know how to engage
- Routinely record observations/questions
- Supervisors and staff consistently monitor case records shared concerns
- Routinely share with court staff
- Maintain relationships with providers

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

Principles

The problems of child maltreatment, trauma, poverty, and substance use disorders demand urgent attention and the highest possible standards of practice from everyone working in systems charged with promoting child safety and family well-being.

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

Principles

- Success is possible and feasible. Staff in child welfare, TANF, substance abuse, mental health, court systems, and maternal and early care providers have the desire and potential to change individual lives and create responsible public policies.
- Family members are active partners and participants in addressing these urgent problems.

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

Premises

1. The team is people, and people, not tools, make decisions
2. The family is the focus of concern
3. Problems don't come in discrete packages; they are jumbled together
4. Assessment is not a one-person responsibility. When tribal children are involved, assessment may be the responsibility of more than one jurisdiction.

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Check in

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare
https://ncsacw.acf.hhs.gov/

Key Elements of Collaboration

- Underlying values
- Daily practice: healing
- Daily practice: support
- Daily practice: assisting children
- Building community and family supports
- Joint accountability and shared outcome
- Linking information systems
- Training/staff development
- Budgeting/program sustainability
- Working with related agencies

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Collaboration in Practice

- Ensures care coordination
- Process facilitates who does what, when
- A partnership with the grandfamily that builds strength and self-reliance
- A process of engaging helping resources
- An opportunity to build rapport and a helping alliance

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Collaboration Challenges

- Conflicting values
- Historic distrust
- Implicit bias
- Funding silos
- Information sharing barriers
  - NCSACW and NICWA Resources for Collaboration

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Check in

Working with Additional Agencies

Partnership most frequently cited as necessary:

- Substance abuse treatment
- Mental health services for adults
- Mental health services for children
- Maternal and infant care providers
- Early childhood services
- Domestic violence
- Housing
- Vocational rehabilitation

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

Discussion Questions

- What opportunities do you have for inter-agency collaboration?
- What are the barriers?
  - Policy
  - Practice
  - Relationships
  - Values

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Building Blocks for Collaboration

- Documented needs
- Readiness/urgency
- Funder buy-in
- Trauma informed
- Care coordination design
- Screening tools
- Common assessment
- Open communication
- Confidentiality
- Shared case plans
- Data sharing

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Building Blocks for Collaboration

- Data sharing
- Leadership support
- Cross-training
- Staff buy-in
- Training/TA
- Budgeting/funding
- Shared vision
- Cultural integrity
- Commitment to healing
- Respect for others' missions
- Clear collaboration principles

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Authority to Collaborate

- Authority in government programs comes from law and policy
- Authority in a nonprofit comes from the founding documents and by-laws
- Be explicit with authority to collaborate
- Write it into policy

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Structuring Collaboration: Options

- Charter
- By-laws
- MOU
- Protocol
  - Value based
  - Verbal agreement
  - Vested in relationship, role, leadership

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Is it Working?

- Quality control
- Feedback loops
- Evaluation
- Fidelity

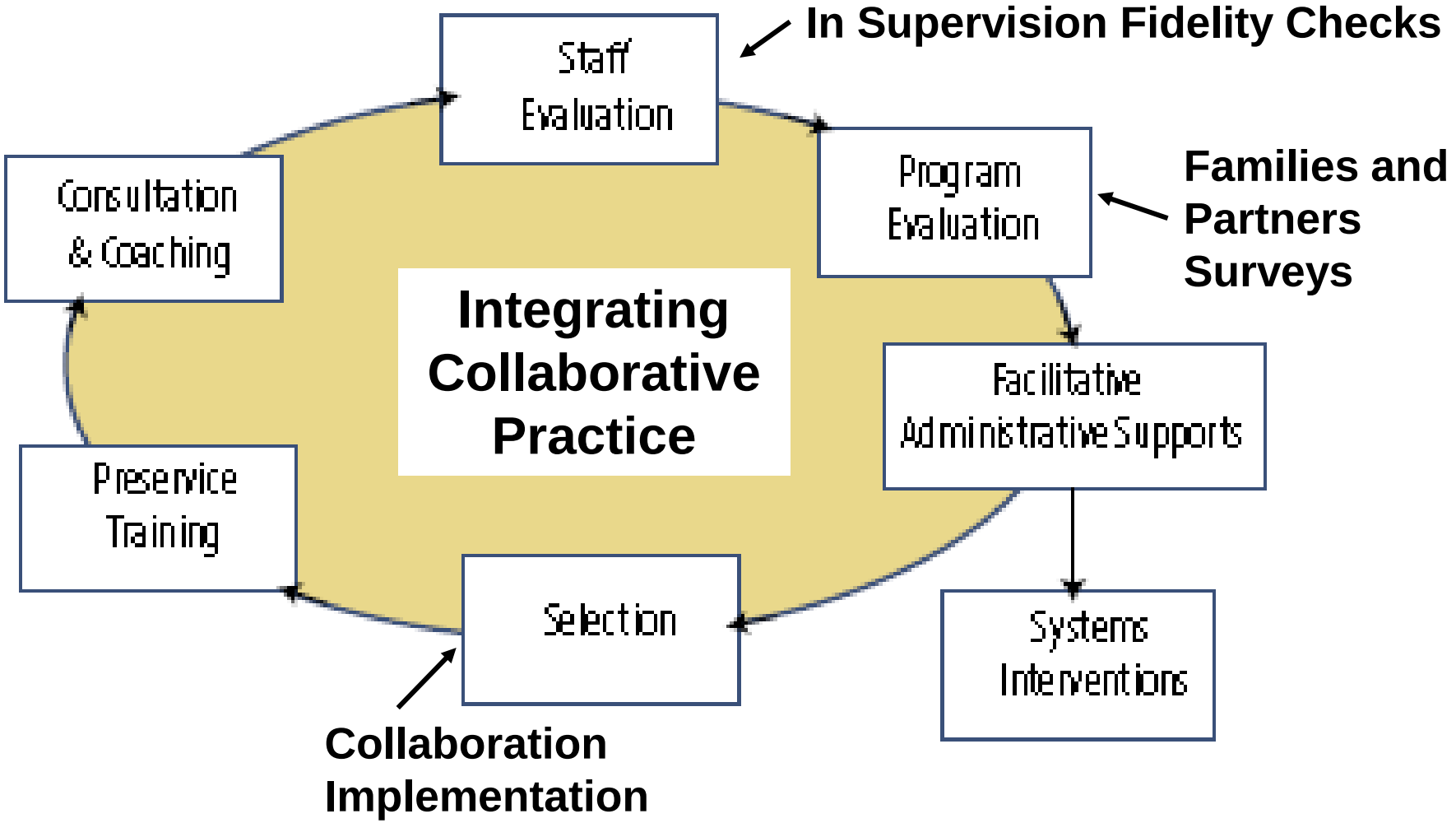
NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Feedback Loops

- Supervision
- Team meetings
- Management meetings
- Community member check-ins
- Partner check-ins
- Fidelity measures
- Evaluation

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Role of Evaluation



NICW
National Indian Child Welfa
Protecting Our Children • Preser

Communications

- Who talks to who about what?
  - Budget, resources, staffing
  - Policy, administrative issues
  - Conflicts, decision making
  - Scheduling, timing of services
  - Cases, screening, assessments, etc.
- What does open communication mean?

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Confidentiality

- Privacy vs. Confidentiality
- Privacy is the reasonable expectation that your personal and/or medical information will not be disclosed
- Confidentiality is a professional obligation to not share information gained in the helping relationship to maintain trust and integrity

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

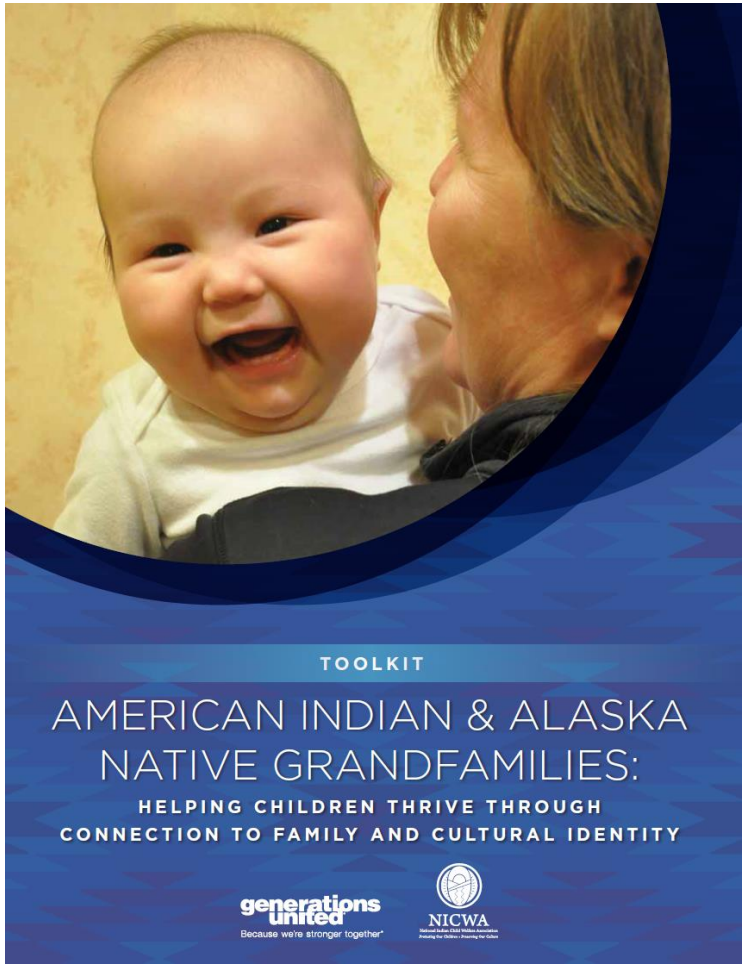
Roles of Leadership in Collaboration

- Facilitation – making easier
- Holding space
- Risk tolerance
- Giving away the problem

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

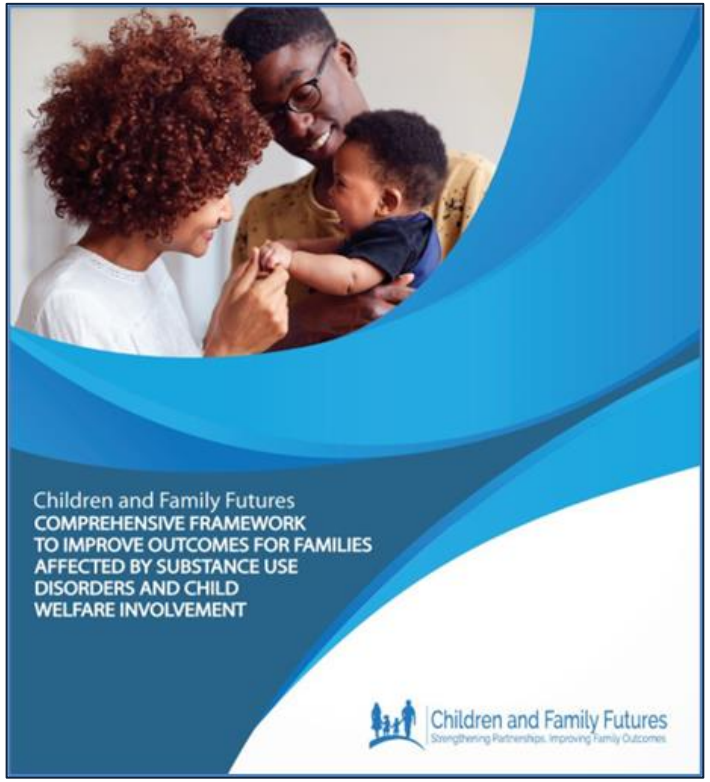
Coming Soon Collaboration 2.0

- Collaboration with Tribes
  - Sovereignty
  - Policy environment
  - Historical issues
  - Worldview differences
  - Communication
  - Building trust
  - Outcome strategies



NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Resources



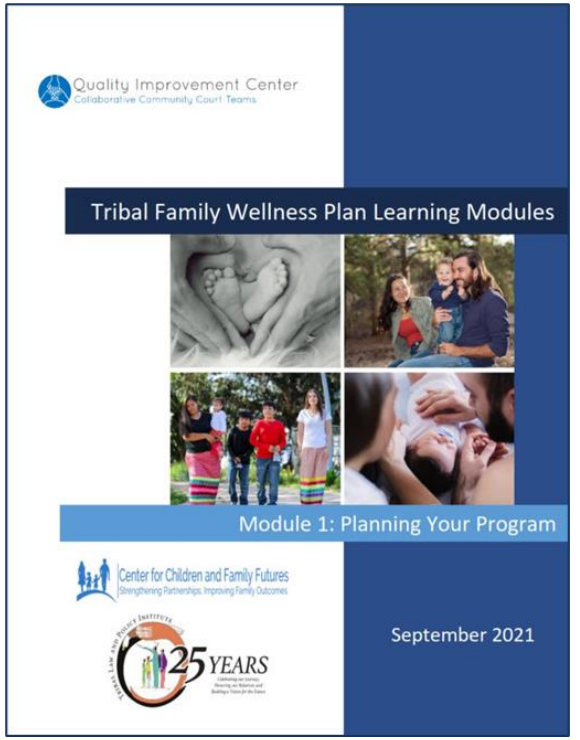
[Comprehensive Framework to Improve Outcomes for Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders and Child Welfare Involvement]

[Building Collaborative Series]

NICW
National Indian Child Welfare
Protecting Our Children • Preservi

Resources

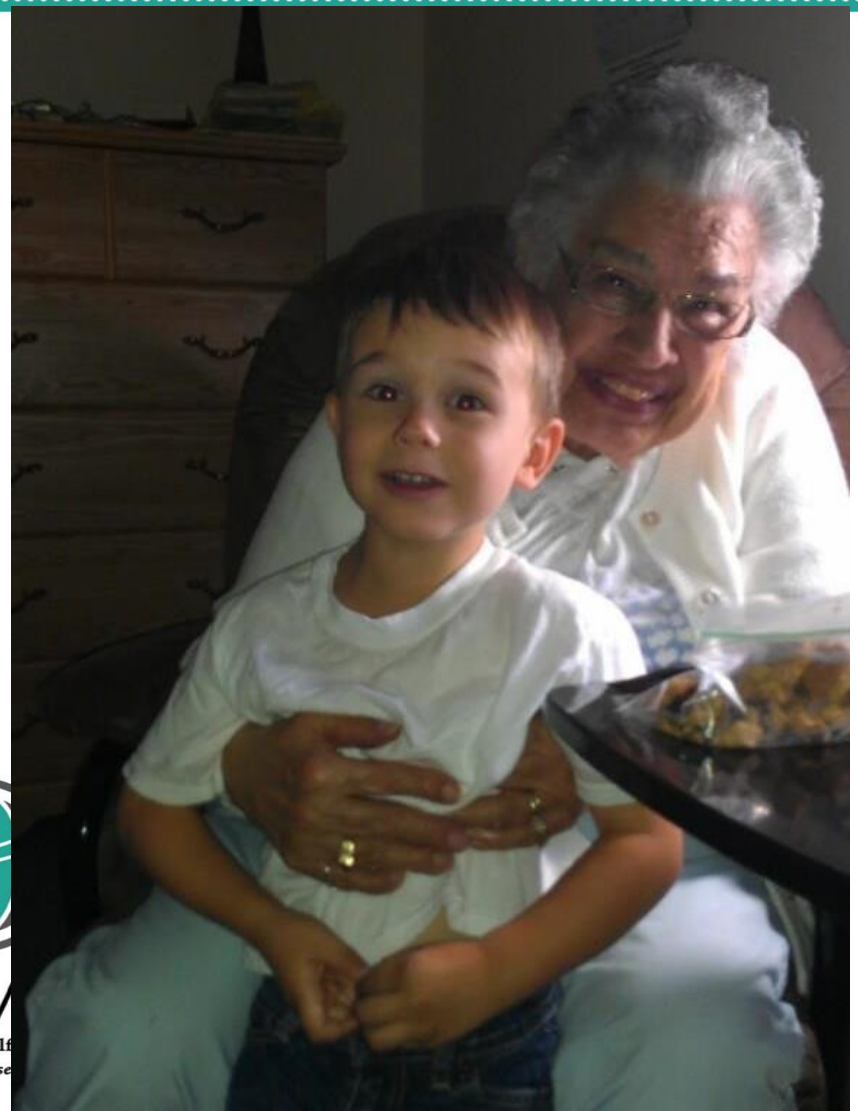
[Tapping Tribal Wisdom: Providing Collaborative Care for Native Pregnant Women with Substance Use Disorders and Their Infants]



[Tribal Family Wellness Plan Learning Modules]

NICW
National Indian Child Welfare
Protecting Our Children • Preservi

Thank you!



Terry L Cross
Founder and Senior Advisor
terry@nicwa.org
503-222-4044

NICW
National Indian Child Welf
Protecting Our Children • Prese

www.nicwa.org