

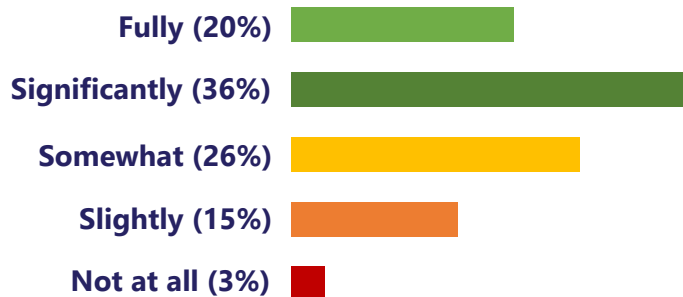
LEARNING LEADING CHANGING

A learning exchange series for
university-agency partnerships

Collaborating to Enhance ICWA Knowledge and Practice

KEY TAKEAWAYS

To what degree is your partnership intentionally focusing on practices related to implementation of ICWA?



Deepening Understanding and Appreciating Experiences

- Find opportunities for self-directed learning (e.g., listening to [This Land](#) podcast)
- Sign up for [educational experiences](#) to learn more
- Understand dual citizenship and sovereignty rather than thinking of Native Americans as a race
- Become interculturally competent

SESSION 1 OF 3

Event Date:

03/21/2022

Recording:

<https://vimeo.com/691555898>

PowerPoint Deck With Resources:

<https://ncwwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Collaborating-to-Enhance-ICWA-PPT.pdf>



Developing Heart and Mind Connection Around ICWA

- Utilize information and support from NICWA and incorporate them into trainings (some of which may require NICWA membership).
- Use ICWA as the “gold standard” of social work and child welfare practices
- Get tribes involved at intake level, inquiring at first contact
- Assign staff to collaborate with tribes
- Attend ICWA meetings and trainings
- Support and encourage traditional practices during visitations
- Complete a genealogy of the family
- Continue ICWA inquiry throughout process, starting at first contact with child/family
- Have an ICWA specialist who will act as the first contact for ICWA-related concerns
- Emphasize Indigeneity as opposed to race or ethnicity
- Work with the [Capacity Building Center for Tribes](#) to better collaborate and build relationships
- Connect with local ICWA and tribal liaisons to identify current practices within the state and provide direction on needed changes
- Understand the dual relationships between the tribe and the child welfare agencies/state
- Increase Native American representation in child welfare as workers and trainers
- Network between agencies and programs to build a deeper understanding and commitment to ICWA

Advocating for Change

- Have courage and willingness to question current practice and think critically together
- Be prepared to navigate difficult conversations in a good way
- Be intentional about holding space for change to occur
- Practice ongoing self-reflection and an understanding of the difference between leadership and authority
- Remind providers to ask about tribal membership and/or ask questions around eligibility for membership (not just checking boxes)

Training

- Establish annual ICWA trainings
- Train tribal members to be experts in court
- Update ICWA training curriculum
- Provide ICWA trainings for judges, court and parent attorneys, State Advisory Groups (SAG), and guardian ad litem (GAL) to better advocate on behalf of children and families
- Develop ICWA interpretation and implementation trainings
- Build Native American history into the curriculum and training for MSW Title IV-E students

