

Building Bridges to Improve Mental Health in Navajo Nation

The Navajo Nation is collaborating with the National Center for Adoption Competent Mental Health Services to improve mental health outcomes for our children and families who experienced child welfare systems. The National Center is providing technical assistance that **bridges the gap** between child welfare and mental health systems to increase access to the child welfare competent mental health services that children and families need.



Up to 80% of children in foster care have experienced significant mental health issues.

Why Do We Need to Close This Gap?

The lack of collaboration between both systems creates significant barriers to children and families being able to receive the child welfare competent mental health services they need. These children and families face:



Mental health interventions that aren't designed for their specific needs and experiences



Mental health service providers who aren't trained in child welfare competency

Building and sustaining cross-system collaboration will help:

- Create a cross-system network to help children and families access and complete mental health services.
- Equip the Navajo Nation workforce in multiple systems with knowledge about child welfare/adoption competent mental health services.
- Equip the Navajo workforce with child welfare and permanency competent knowledge.



Bridging the Gap—How Can We Help?

The National Center is working with Navajo Nation to provide a continuum of services to support cross-system collaboration between child welfare systems and mental health systems. We will offer services ranging from articles, webinars, and peer learning communities to hands-on, tailored technical assistance (TA) to deliver new and enhanced support and training to Navajo Nation to meet the needs of children and families. All of our services will utilize a racial and broader equity lens, incorporate a recognition of American Indian/Alaska Native tribal sovereignty, and are free.



Universal Technical Assistance

Our Knowledge Hub provides a robust collection of free resources, tools, and evidence-informed materials on best practices intervention models to build child welfare and mental health systems' capacity to provide child welfare competent mental health services. The Knowledge Hub is dynamic and responsive to our audience's informational needs.

Intensive Technical Assistance

We also provide in-depth, on-site TA to six States, Tribal Nations, and territories each year. This TA involves partnering closely with child welfare systems and mental health systems in each TA site to create or expand cross-system collaboration to help the systems increase access to child welfare competent mental health services for children and families. Our TA team will work together with each TA site to develop a custom implementation plan that is tailored and responsive to the site's unique needs, strengths, and structure.



Learn how Technical Assistance can benefit your system.

Scan the QR code to check out our website;

bridges4mentalhealth.org

Partners

Our multi-partner collaborative team includes national leaders and experts from both child welfare and mental health work; individuals and families with lived experience and; and other experts in key areas such as community engagement, workforce development, collaboration, system change, sustainability, and evaluation.

