



## OVERVIEW

The National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG) is a five-year project working with eight sites that will implement evidence-based interventions or develop and test promising practices which if proven effective can be replicated or adapted in other child welfare jurisdictions. Effective interventions are expected to achieve long-term, stable permanency in adoptive and guardianship homes for waiting children as well as children and families after adoption or guardianship has been finalized.

## SITE OVERVIEW

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska is a sovereign nation with a land base that spreads across the borders of the states of Nebraska and Iowa. Children and Family Services (CFS) are provided through the Tribe's Department of Human Services. CFS provides culturally appropriate services rooted in the Ho-Chunk culture that focus on the safety and well-being of children and families. In addition, CFS provides services that promote and support successful permanency outcomes for families formed through adoption or guardianship.

## PROJECT GOAL

The Winnebago QIC-AG project will evaluate the effectiveness of an adaption of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) used to improve permanency and well-being outcomes for children and youth for whom reunification with the biological parent is not possible. The Winnebago QIC-AG project will adapt the FGDM intervention to reflect Ho-Chunk cultural values and practices.

## PERMANENCY CONTINUUM INTERVAL: FOCUSED

The Winnebago site is implementing an intervention within the Focused Interval of the QIC-AG Permanency Continuum Framework. Focused services are designed with a two-fold purpose. First, focused services are intended to meet the emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs of children whose current needs are hindering permanence. Second, focused services are designed to enhance the capacity of each family to meet the needs of their child and, ultimately, become a permanent resource. The adapted version of the FGDM intervention will be used to support Winnebago families in determining the best permanency option for their children.

## TARGET POPULATION

---

The Winnebago FGDM intervention will target children in foster care who cannot be reunited with their biological parents. This population includes children for whom a permanency resource has not yet been identified, and children for whom a permanency resource has been identified but whose prospective permanency families would benefit from the FGDM program to prepare for finalization.

## INTERVENTION

---

The intervention chosen is Family Group Decision Making. FGDM will be adapted to reflect the Ho-Chunk cultural beliefs and practices. Once FGDM has been adapted to reflect Ho-Chunk cultural values, the intervention will be used to engage the Tribal family in identifying the best permanency resource and determining whether the preferred permanency option is customary adoption, permanent legal guardianship, or other form of Tribally recognized family restoration.

## PROGRAM EVALUATION AND EXPECTED RESULTS

---

The intervention will be conducted primarily as a qualitative process evaluation examining the process by which the Winnebago members add meaning to the the FGDM process through the infusion of cultural roles, values, and ceremonies. The expected long-term outcomes include the following: increased permanency outcomes;

decreased time to finalization/permanency or decreased time in care; increased placement stability; improved child and family well-being; and improved behavioral health for children and youth.

## SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

---

Short-term outcomes, unique to this site, include the following:

- » increased knowledge of permanency options;
- » increased protective factors; and
- » increased knowledge of Winnebago-specific pathway



*Funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Grant # 90CO1122-01-00. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the funders, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This information is in the public domain. Readers are encouraged to copy and share it, but please credit Spaulding for Children.*

## MORE INFORMATION

---

For more information about the QIC-AG visit [www.qic-ag.org](http://www.qic-ag.org) and

- » search our Intervention and Program Catalog
- » download information about the Permanency Continuum Framework
- » explore details about the eight Partner Sites

QIC•AG