

Core Team Action Plan

Cultivating a cohesive team is critical to the success of IECMHC and paves the way for leveraging resources, integrating services and ensuring impact of program goals. Each community partner brings different skills, perspectives, and resources that support providers, families, and children. Having a variety of community partners can help bring issues and overlap in existing services to the forefront. IECMHC models and ultimately services are most effective when partners are champions from the onset and work together in developing and messaging the purpose and practice of IECMHC and clearly define the scope in relation to other supports.

Some partners are easily recognizable, such as early childhood organizations and already established councils. Aside from these more obvious partners, you might consider more innovative ideas for partnerships. For example, in Colorado, the Kids Connect program linked with the local police department to align early prevention efforts for child safety and well-being. Additionally, families, extended families, and elders bring experiences and knowledge about their goals and needs, as well as a wealth of cultural history and practices that can enhance IECMHC services.

This planning document will give your team a start as you reflect on possible partnerships. It is not expected all of the entities or individuals within this list will be part of your team but will guide careful consideration to partners based on the community and families you serve.

Entity	How is it going? 0 = No partnership yet 1 = Just starting out 2 = We could improve our partnership 3 = Our partnership is robust and strong	Are members representative of community diversity?	Action step(s) for strengthening this partnership	Person(s) responsible	By when?
Early care and learning provider association (home- and center-based)					
Child care resource and referral organization					
Nonprofits or community groups or organizations (IMH association, university, Tribal College, etc.)					
Social services agency					
Nurse consultant group					

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Mental health providers/ Traditional healers					
State Department of Child Care (licensing, etc.)					
Home visiting model agency					
Head Start/Early Head Start					
Child Welfare/Indian Child Welfare					

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Funders (e.g., First Five)					
School systems					
Local public health agency/IHS					
Tribal council or Governing board					
Mental Health Advocacy Association					

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Local parents' groups/families					
Local philanthropists					
Legislators					
Early Intervention provider organization					
Child Find					

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Family, Friend, and Neighbor groups					
Evaluation team, internal or external					
Other:					