



Sovereign Steps: Enhancing Child Care Systems through Tribal Licensing and CCDF Funding Strategies

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2024 Collaboratory Coverning

Tribal Child Care Systems

- Comprehensive tribal child care systems support working families with Child Care Assistance for 6 weeks to age 12 for licensed and unlicensed care, for all hours, week/weekends and year around
- **Parental Choice:** Family Child Care, Group Child Care, Child Care Centers, Before & After School Age Programs, Language Nests, Infant and Toddler Programs, Family, Friends & Neighbor (FFN) within tribal communities, **including urban tribal communities**
- Employers need employees, employees need child care
- Child Care are small businesses with employees, child care recruits other businesses to the community
- Tribal Licensing creates high quality child care to help children become life-long learners
- Tribal Child Care allows children to stay in their community and reduces long drives to available child care in neighboring communities
- All Tribal Leaders is working towards successful tribal economic development, child care is a large part of that, just as housing, transportation and jobs are to a healthy and vibrant communities



Parental Choice

Maximize parental choice of safe, healthy and nurturing child care settings through the use of certificates and through grants and contracts, and by providing parents with information about child care programs;

Include in their programs a broad range of child care providers, including center-based care, family child care, in home care, care provided by relatives and sectarian child care providers;

Improve the quality and supply of child care and before- and after-school care services that meet applicable requirements and promote healthy child development and learning and family economic stability;



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Tribal Licensing is Sovereignty

Tribes self-govern
their own branches
of government

Tribes are responsible
for federal and state
funding,
accountability

The Final Rule provides guidance

Design flexible programs that provide for the changing needs of recipient families and engage families in their children's development and learning;



Tribal Nations Licensing & Monitoring

Tribal Nations are already required to monitor all child care programs who receive their CCDF funds, including State licensed programs (co-monitoring for CCDF compliance)

Tribal Nations can develop their own licensing standards to ensure compliance with CCDF and that reflect tribal customs and values

Tribal Nations who license their own child care programs have the option of what types of child care license they will issue (i.e., family child care, group child care, center-based, sick or drop-in care, after-school programs, language nests, child care pods, HS Family CC options, etc.)

Tribal Nations who receive CCDF directly can use their CCDF to recruit, license, monitor, retention, quality, professional development, grants, incentives, health & safety, language/cultural programming, quality rating system support (curricula, screenings/assessments, etc.)



Benefits of Tribal Child Care Licensing

Tribes can monitor and ‘control’ what is happening in a child care setting that care for our indigenous children

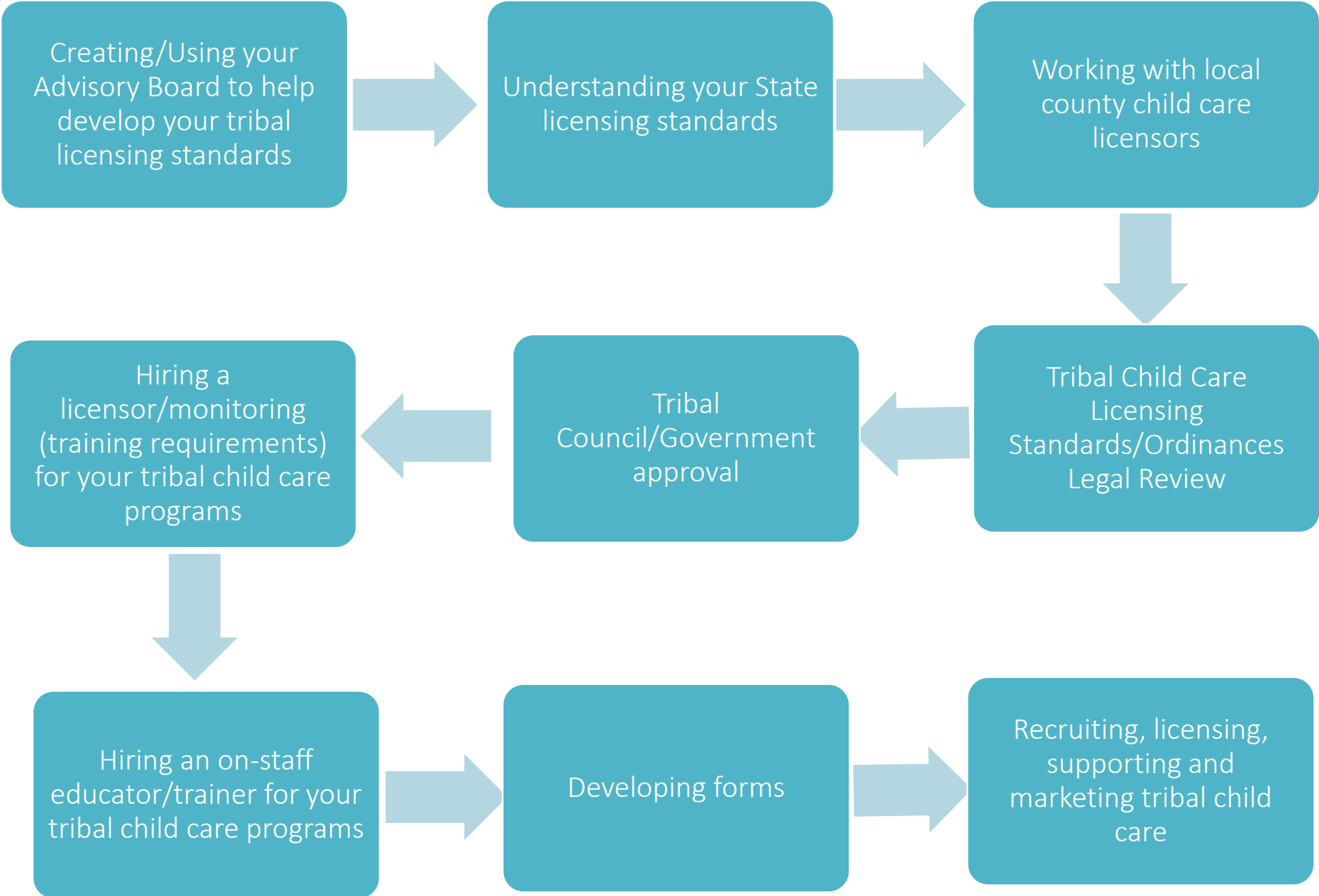
Tribes can help create culturally rich child care settings **within** tribal communities both rural and urban settings

Tribal Licensed Programs can reflect the Tribe’s cultural values, language and practices

CCDF funding supports Tribal Licensing to ensure accessibility and affordability of high quality child care for their members within their own community

Tribally licensed child care providers/centers are small businesses in tribal communities and provide employment opportunities

Tribes can opt to also license non-tribal members within tribal communities to ensure they too reflect the tribe’s values and culture





Supporting and Connecting Tribal Child Care Businesses

First Children's Finance helps child care entrepreneurs start and grow sustainable child care businesses.

Helping Child Care Providers understand budgets

Connecting your tribally licensed child care providers with your local Child Care Aware for referrals

Connecting your tribally licensed child care providers with your local child care assistance programs

Connecting your tribally licensed child care providers with CACFP food programs

Connecting your tribally licensed child care providers with local businesses for support, parent referrals, purchasing slots for their employees



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