

OUTREACH FOR ACCESS

Protocol for Tribal Early Childhood and School-Age Care Participation in Statewide Initiatives

New Statewide Initiatives and Initiatives Being Evaluated

Purpose: To ensure that Tribal Child Care programs have adequate and timely information about early childhood and school-age statewide initiatives being developed, extended or evaluated. To ensure that Tribal Child Care programs have an opportunity to become involved in planning and implementation of statewide initiatives to determine how activities will best meet the needs of the American Indian children, families, providers and other early education and/or school-age practitioners throughout the state.

DHS:

Strategy: DHS will formally notify MnTRECC through letter of invitation (see attached sample) of any state initiatives that are in the initial stages of development or current initiatives that are being re-assessed or evaluated. Letter of invitation will include background, type of input requested, scope of participation requested, timeline, logistics and area(s) of experience or knowledge needed.

Strategy: DHS will ensure that meetings are held in locations that are geographically accessible to tribal agencies throughout the state (e.g., by holding the meetings in geographically central locations, providing reimbursement for expenses related to travel and/or arranging for technology to support participation such as videoconferencing, chat rooms, etc.).

Strategy: DHS will share this protocol with all relevant statewide early childhood and school-age care agencies and/or initiatives (DHS funded and others) to promote inclusion of tribal perspectives and involvement in both new and existing initiatives.

MnTRECC:

Strategy: MnTRECC will distribute letter of invitation to Tribal Early Childhood and School-Age Care professionals throughout the state.

Strategy: MnTRECC will be the point of contact to collect information from tribal early childhood and school-age professionals who express interest in participating in statewide initiatives. MnTRECC will forward contact and background information to task group. MnTRECC will offer any needed technical assistance to support participation of tribal early childhood and school-age care professionals.

Strategy: MnTRECC will maintain a list of tribal early childhood and school-age care professionals who are participating in statewide initiative task groups and provide ongoing updates to MnTRECC Planning Group.