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**Tribal Child Care Association of CA (TCCAC) and  
California Department of Education (CDE)  
Project HOPE Announcement and Overview:**

Many of you have heard the exciting news that the TCCAC applied for a 200K grant from the BUILD Initiative in partnership with CDE a few months ago. The great news is we have successfully advanced to Phase Two and now we need your help!

In California, we are embarking on some exciting partnerships between the California Department of Education and Tribal Child Care. Our partnership has been working jointly for several years working as state leaders through the Tribal Child Care Association of California quarterly meetings.

The collaborative efforts of ongoing conversations, meetings, and time has shed light on the inequities that California state agencies have created in serving California indigenous children. This project will provide opportunities for the leaders of both state and tribal governments to build the capacity of local communities and cross-sector state teams to address these inequalities and to promote child well-being for all children in California and California Indian Country.

The partnership efforts will focus on the momentum already in full swing. Building off of the State Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), part of Quality Counts California, and the Tribe's culturally appropriate Quality Improvement System (QIS), the partnership will fully embrace the California objectives of a QRIS that provides a quality framework for early learning & care (ELC) programs and guides culturally and linguistically responsive practices to best support the elements related to improved child well-being and readiness for success in school and life:

- ELC programs and settings across the continuum achieve high-quality
- Families become informed about quality, define what quality means for them and are able to find and access high quality ELC
- Promote accountability so policy makers and funders feel confident about investing in quality, culturally responsive early learning and care.

To create a seamless system for the State and Tribes, the project will focus on the recognition of the whole child taking into consideration culture and tradition, and create a linkage and space for family and community stakeholders from Tribes to be connected to state level work. As a goal and anticipated outcome, the state and local partners with an equity lens, will incorporate and work towards goals recognizing the importance of indigenous children and families feeling pride and confidence in their world view, from the perspective of their Indigenous communities and families. The collaborative efforts will focus on commitments to:

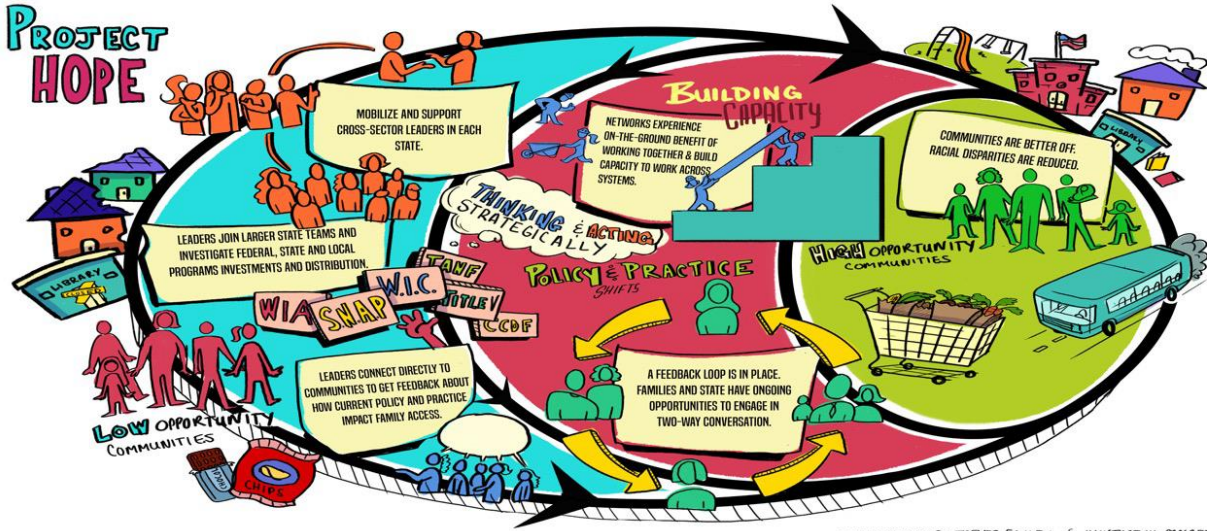
- Address culture and values.
- Honor and respect parenting and child rearing practices and with a focus on preserving traditional ways of raising and educating children.
- Consider culturally-relevant training and curriculum guidance for professionals working with Native American children and families that is respected and valued by educators, their community and families.
- Engage families and their communities in the design and input about their children's educational and care experiences.

Through Project HOPE, our Leadership Team in California (CDE-EESD/TCCAC) is dedicated to building relationships with tribal nations on a government-to-government basis and aspires to bring together resources across all programs to address critical needs of Native American communities and establishing overdue equities. It is essential to continue to find ways to support ongoing strategies and programs in our state intended to reduce inequities by providing high-quality services for ALL children and their families.

As mentioned earlier in this overview, both the CA Tribes and the CDE-EESD are working on quality improvements. The CA Tribes through the QIS and the CDE-EESD, in partnership with First 5 California and local QRIS consortiums, through the statewide QCC. These two systems started about the same time, but never worked together. To date, a lot of movement has been made on discussing both systems and how these two systems should and can work together.

In April of 2018, the CDE-EESD made a decision to formally recognize the TCCAC and to allocate funding for the Tribes to be considered their own Region. Region 11 of Quality Counts California. Project HOPE will support the collaborative effort to implement the CA Tribal QIS, which will include opportunities to provide input, training, and resources for tribal child care. As we move toward the final Phase Three, we hope to eventually gain funding that can be utilized to move this project forward. Getting Tribal program and tribal government input, as well as the support of other state agencies, and creating a vision is a part of the Project HOPE goals. We would like to create a strategic plan that is inclusive of CA Tribal Child Care and the CDE as we move the objectives forward to Phase Three. Phase Three is our final portfolio, the picture of our findings and fixes. Funds will be awarded based upon the work performed in Phase Three as well as the objectives identified. CA Tribal Child Care Programs are headed for equity!

# PROJECT HOPE



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