

MAAFPCWDA Q&A

Sarah Shepherd | Project Manager

Question 1

Q: How do MAAFPCWDA active efforts differ from ICWA active efforts?

A: ICWA recognizes the inherent rights of political status and protects the best interests of Tribal Nations, and American Indian families and children. Active efforts is one of the required provisions under ICWA to prevent removal and support reunification, requiring rigorous, proactive efforts to support Native families, including involving decisions made with child's tribe(s) and family if absolutely necessary.

Under MAAFPCWDA, 'active efforts' are required to prevent removal and support reunification specific to African American and other disproportionately represented children. Efforts are to be tailored to the cultural needs of children and families, emphasizing engagement with parents, relatives, and families.

Note: This slide has been changed since the webinar

Question 2

Q: What or when will there be a presentation to the judicial system

A: DCYF is working closely with the Children's Justice Initiative (CJI) to collaborate and communicate with the judicial system. Outside of CJI, DCYF is willing to present on MAAFPCWDA-related items, with sufficient notice. It would be helpful to receive more context about the presentation and communication needs of the judicial system. Contact Sarah Shepherd at sarah.shepherd@state.mn.us and Ashley Aguy at Ashley.aguy@state.mn.us to inquire about presentation needs.

Question 3

Q: In rural MN, finding culturally competent service providers and resources is challenging. Do you have ideas of organizations, clubs, entities who could help us find mentors and community partners who are skilled in these areas?

A: DCYF knows the culturally-responsive services in rural MN is a challenge. We anticipate the response to this question will be determined in partnership and collaboration with rural counties. More to come on this.

Question 4

Q: What will be required of agencies? How will active efforts be tracked? What data entry is going to be needed?

A: There is a lot of details that DCYF continues to work out in collaboration with the phase-in program counties, the MAAFPCWDA Statewide Work Group. We will continue to share as many details along the way as we can.

Question 5

Q: Will there be a standard for what is considered active efforts?

A: This is something that DCYF continues to work out in collaboration with the phase-in program counties, the MAAFPCWDA Statewide Work Group. More to come!

Question 6

Q: How can we recruit more diverse foster families?

A: The Child and Family Service Plan includes a recruitment plan.