



## STAM 2015

# SESSION: CCDF AS AN ASSET IN SYSTEMS BUILDING

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Small Group Discussion Approach

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For this part of the session, we will break into small groups to engage in conversations across State/Territories about how we are working to improve the early childhood system and the impacts of using the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) strategically. Specifically, the small group discussions will focus on integration *process* topics that have helped States/Territories move toward seamless systems. In your small groups, please use Julia Coffman's five essential aspects of systems building as a framing tool for your responses to the questions to follow.

#### **Directions:**

1. Move into one of the small group areas in the room.
2. Each table will have a facilitator to guide the discussion.
3. There will be 30 – 35 minutes allocated to engage in conversation with others about building seamless systems within States/Territories and in working with Tribes.
4. The facilitator will ask for volunteers to be the recorder and the reporter for the group.

#### **Framing Questions:**

- A. Please ask the group to answer the Framing Question first.

*In review of the five essential aspects of systems building noted by Coffman, which element has been the catalyst for integration in your State/Territory, or in working with Tribes?*

1. **Context:** Improve the political environment that surrounds the early childhood system so it produces the policy and funding changes needed to create and sustain it.
  2. **Components:** Establish high-performing early learning programs and services within the system that produce results for system beneficiaries.
  3. **Connections:** Create strong and effective linkages across early childhood system components that further improve results for system beneficiaries.
  4. **Infrastructure:** Develop the ongoing supports systems need to function effectively and with quality.
  5. **Scale:** Ensure a comprehensive system is available to all intended beneficiaries to produce broad and inclusive results for system beneficiaries.
- B. Consider your primary focus area (e.g., context, components, connections, etc.) as you respond to the following:
- Share with your small group the key collaboration processes that underpinned any “integration” changes in your State/Territory, or in working with Tribes (e.g., messaging shared values; cross-systems processes).
  - How did your State/Territory move from “checking the box” to the “process” of larger group visioning, thinking, and doing?
  - Tell us one way your State/Territory has approached promoting equity as a strategy for integration.
  - Highlight specific ideas your State/Territory is currently considering for using reauthorization as leverage for building more seamless systems with stakeholders or tribal partnerships.