Tribal and State Coordination: Guiding Questions for States to Consider

Set the Stage

- What are the first steps in developing a relationship with my tribal partner(s)?
- What are the most important things I need to know about each Tribe’s history and culture?
- How do I address tribal sovereignty considerations in a partnership?
- What is my agency’s history of working with Tribes and how might that history impact our work together?

Gather Information: How Well Do I Know My Tribal Partner(s)?

- Who is the point of contact?
- What is the governance structure?
- Who is served? How many children and families?
- What is the size allocation?
- Is the Tribe part of a consortium?
- Does the Tribe offer Head Start services along with child care services?
- Who are the Tribe’s other partners?

Make a Plan

- What are the benefits of a partnership?
- What are the barriers or challenges we may face in our partnership and how can we address them?
- Will this require a written agreement that will be binding for my agency?
- Can I have an overall agreement with all of the Tribes in my State or are separate agreements preferred?