# FIRST TALK: FOUNDATIONS

## What We Build

PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION: Develop a short and memorable statement that captures the long-term desired condition you wish to see as a result of your project. This statement is your project’s Vision of Success and you will refer back to it as you move forward on the Pathway to Change.

Examples of a Vision of Success:

*“Children grow up in our community in safe, healthy, and culturally-grounded families.” “Families in our community experience social, emotional, cultural, and economic well-being.”*

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

Remember, you are envisioning a desired future that will come about through your project. To develop your Vision of Success, asking questions such as the following may be helpful:

* What essential transformation (in children, families, community, child welfare program, etc.) would you like to see come about as a result of your project?
* What would your project like to leave behind as its legacy?
* What would you like your community to say in that future about what your project accomplished?
* What will be different in your community (or child welfare program) as a result of successfully completing your project?

**Describe your long-term Vision of Success:**

Who We Impact

PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION: Identify the people, groups, and stakeholders that will be impacted by the change brought about by achieving the Vision of Success.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

* Who is the direct target of this change (individuals, groups, systems)?
* Who will be involved in making the change happen?
* Who else will be impacted by the change?

**List the people, groups, and systems impacted by the change:**

**People, Groups, Systems**

**How They Are Impacted**

What We Know

PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION: Compile background and contextual information that is relevant to achieving the Vision of Success and completing the desired project.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

* + What conditions currently exist in our community, with our families, or in our program?
  + How does our child welfare program currently operate?
  + What kinds of things are happening in our program/community that could support or detract from our project?
  + What information or data do we have about the issues involved? What do we think may be contributing to these issues?

**List of What We Know:**

What We Bring

PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION: Identify the resources, strengths, and challenges that the program, tribal community, and children and families bring to the desired project and which will be utilized in achieving the Vision of Success.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

* What formal and informal resources are available in our program? Our community?
* What do we see as the major strengths and resources of the program, the community, and children and families?
* What do we see as the major challenges and risk factors facing children and families in our community?

**List the resources, strengths, and challenges that we bring to our desired project:**

What We Change

PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION: Identify specifics of what will be different than it is currently once the Vision of Success is achieved.

It may be helpful to think about what needs to happen or exist to move from the conditions in the What We Bring section to the conditions that will exist when the Vision of Success is achieved.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

* What needs to be put in place or revamped to reach our Vision of Success (These could be changes in practice or staffing, new services, support from community, etc.)
* What doesn’t exist now, but will need to in the future, to achieve the Vision of Success?
* What needs to be happening in order to go from where we are now to the Vision of Success?
* What are our assumptions about why these changes need to happen and how they lead to the Vision of Success? What resources will we need to access?

**List of changes that will need to occur to achieve the Vision of Success:**

**FIRST TALK: FOUNDATIONS**

What We Do

PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION: List some of the activities that will lead to the changes identified in the previous section, What We Change.

During the work planning phase of your project, ideas from this section may be developed in greater detail and included in the project work plan.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

### What practical activities will help us make our changes?

* + What tasks need to be a part of each activity?
  + Who needs to be involved in each activity?
  + What will result from each activity?

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| **Change** | **Activity(ies)** |

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| **Change** | **Activity(ies)** |

**How We Know (Evaluation & CQI)**

PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION: Help you begin to think about how the evaluation and CQI concepts of *outputs* and *milestones* are connected to the activities in a work plan.

In this section we’ll look at some of the activities listed in the section “What We Do” (and related to a change identified in the section “What We Change”), and identify outputs and milestones for those activities.

Milestone = An action or event marking a significant point in progress or development; a sign of progress. Output = A direct and measurable product of a program activity.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

### What will indicate that we have achieved a particular activity or step within an activity?

* What are the milestones of a particular activity?
* How would we monitor our work to show we’ve met a milestone?
* What types of outputs would we expect from each activity?
* What data do we currently collect on activities and what new data might need to be collected?

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| **Activity** | **Milestones** (signs of progress) | **Output(s) of the activity** | **How will we know activity has**  **been completed?** |
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