



Center for Native Child and Family Resilience

Items for a Community Dialogue

Essential Items:

- A safe space for gathering. Many times, this is donated by the facility; however, it is important to consider where participants will feel most comfortable. Some buildings may be naturally triggering because of their history or the experiences participants have had there, so it is important to find a neutral and relaxed setting to host the community gathering.
- Childcare services, so parents and caregivers can attend and fully participate in the process.
- A visible way to display key thoughts, feelings, and themes that arise during the dialogue. This could be a whiteboard with markers, large sheets of paper, or a computer with a projector to display notes on the wall.
- Food and beverages. People come together to open up and share over food, which is critical to a successful community dialogue. The refreshments do not have to be extravagant and may even be donated; however, it is vital that there is a way for people to share food.
- Items needed for selected activities: sticky notes, notepads, pens, etc.

Non-Essential Items

- If possible, provide compensation for the community members contributing to the process; you might, for example offer gift cards. Compensation is a direct acknowledgement that their wisdom is valuable and that this process honors their knowledge and intellect.
- Name tags encourage connection between people who do not know each other well.
- Table items that support self-regulation, like sage, coloring books, lavender, molding clay, stress balls, or a stone to grasp.