

Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) and Inter-Ethnic Placement Act (IEPA) Screening Aid

(Use the initial screening questions below and Additional Comments section to help guide you in discovering any specific needs of or issues relating to the child or youth. If no initial screening has been done prior to placement, complete both the initial screening and the out-of-home placement sections of the Screening Aid, in addition to the Additional Comments section.)

Initial Screening

1. Is there any information to support that one of your family members has Native American/Alaskan Native heritage?

Yes No Unknown

If yes, refer to *ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) Guidelines.*

2. With what race and color do you or your family identify?

Maternal family:

Paternal family:

3. How would you or your family describe your national heritage?

Maternal family:

Paternal family:

4. How do you or your family describe your ethnic background?

Maternal family:

Paternal family:

5. How would you describe your religious or spiritual affiliation, if any?

6. Are you active in cultural activities or traditions related to your race, color, religion, national heritage or ethnic background?

Yes No Unknown

If yes, please describe: _____

7. Are you currently living with someone who has a non-related cultural background?

Yes No

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If yes, are there any relatives or others with your cultural background who should be considered?

Yes No Unknown

Who is it and would they be available to you?

8. Would you like an opportunity to request placement with relative or extended members of your identified cultural group(s)?

Yes No

9. Do you maintain cultural ties with those with whom you identify?

Yes No

10. Would you be interested in learning more about your heritage or background?

Yes No

11. How could a relative, foster or adoptive family or other person/family keep you in touch with your own culture?

12. How can I help you to locate cultural resources?

13. Are you aware of higher education scholarships or grants that assist persons with your cultural background to obtain a college or trade school degree?

Yes No

If so, which one(s)?

Have you applied or do you plan to apply for these?

Yes No

Please explain:

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Once Placed in Out-of Home Care:

1. Before coming into out-of-home care, were you ever active in cultural activities or traditions related to your race, color, religion, national heritage or ethnic background?

Yes No Unknown

If yes, please describe:

2. Are you in a foster or adoptive home not related to your cultural background?

Yes No

If yes, have any relatives or others with your cultural background inquired about placement or adoption with them?

Yes No Unknown

If yes, who was it and what was the outcome of their inquiry?

3. Were you given an opportunity to request placement with relative or extended members of your identified cultural group(s)?

Yes No

4. While in placement, have you maintained cultural ties with those with whom you identify?

Yes No

5. Would you be interested in learning more about your heritage or background?

Yes No

6. How does or could your foster or adoptive family keep you in touch with your own culture?

7. How has your caseworker helped (or how could they help) you to locate cultural resources?

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8. Are you aware of higher education scholarships or grants that assist persons with your cultural background to obtain a college or trade school degree?

Yes No

If so, which one(s)?

Have you applied or do you plan to apply for these?

Yes No

Please explain:

Questions for Resource Parents and/or Adoptive Parents:

(Use questions 1-6 of the Initial screening questions as well as the Additional Comments section when interviewing resource and/or adoptive parents while recruiting diverse family groups and when matching them with individual children. Then continue with the following questions.)

9. Are you currently living with someone who has a non-related cultural background?

Yes No

How have you helped him/her in staying connected with their own cultural background?

10. Do you have relatives or extended members from different cultural group(s)?

Yes No

Who are they and would they be available to you and a potential foster or adoptive child?

11. How comfortable are you/would you be caring for a person of a different color, faith or background?

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12. Are there any cultural groups or types of children for whom it would be difficult for you to care?

Yes No

Please explain.

13. If a child or youth of a non-related cultural background were to be placed in your home, how would you locate related cultural resources?

14. Are there any races, religions, national heritages or backgrounds about which you would like to learn more?

Yes No

Please specify:

15. Are you aware of higher education scholarships or grants that assist persons with non-related cultural backgrounds to obtain a college or trade school degree?

Yes No

If so, which one(s)?

16. How would you assist a youth in locating or applying for these scholarships or grants?

Additional Comments:

(Use the Additional Comments section to address factors for consideration and how they would be addressed, such as the age of the child or youth; ties to siblings/other relatives; health or physical conditions and dietary needs; educational, cognitive and psychological needs; religious needs; linguistic needs; and issues related to extra-curricular activities.)