



WELCOME

County of Imperial Resource Family Approval Orientation

AGENDA

- ▶ What is Resource Family Approval (RFA)
- ▶ Overview of Child Welfare Services (CWS) & Probation Systems
- ▶ What is a Resource Family & Their Responsibilities
- ▶ Who are the Children
- ▶ Elements of the Approval Process:
 - ▶ Pre-Approval Training
 - ▶ Background Assessment
 - ▶ Home Environment Assessment
 - ▶ Permanency Assessment
- ▶ Supports for Resource Families



What is Resource Family Approval?

- ▶ A streamlined process that eliminates duplication.
- ▶ Unifies approval standards for all caregivers, regardless of the child's case plan.
- ▶ Includes a comprehensive family evaluation, home environment check, and training for all families, including relatives.
- ▶ Prepares families to better meet the needs of vulnerable children in the foster care system.
- ▶ Allows seamless transition to permanency.

WHO ARE WE...

Child Welfare Services



CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

- ▶ Public Social Services Agency

- ▶ Foster to Reunification
- ▶ Foster to Adoption

- ▶ Juvenile Court

- ▶ Dependency



CHILD WELFARE SERVICES VISION & PRIORITIES

Vision

“Every child in California lives in a safe, stable, permanent home, nurtured by healthy families and strong communities”

Priorities

- 1) Promoting safety, permanency and child and family well-being.
- 2) Preventing, remedying, or assisting in the solution of problems which may result in abuse, neglect, exploitation or delinquency of children;
- 3) Preventing the unnecessary separation of children from their families by identifying family problems; assisting families in resolving their problems, and preventing the breakup of the family where the prevention of child removal is desirable and possible;
- 4) Restoring those children who have been removed back to their families by providing services to the children and their families; and
- 5) Identifying children to be placed in suitable adoptive or guardianship homes in cases where the restoration to the biological family is not possible or appropriate and assuming permanence for children and youth in out-of-home care who cannot return home.

PERMANENCY PLANNING... A PARALLEL PROCESS

Permanency Planning begins as Soon as a Child Enters Foster Care

Plan A

Working on reunification plan with the child's family of origin

Plan B

Identifying a caregiver who is willing to provide permanency through adoption, and in some case, guardianship

The goal...

- Shorten Timeframe for Permanency Planning Decision
- Timely Adoption of Children Who Cannot Return Safely to their Own Homes

WORKING TOGETHER

Resource Families are:

- Trained in meeting the diverse needs of children in their care
- Respectful of children's connections to their culture, family and traditions
- Valued, professional team members who mentor, strengthen and support children and their families

RESOURCE FAMILY SUPPORT

- Monthly Reimbursement
- Medical and Dental Insurance for Dependent Children
- Referral for Counseling or In-Home Based Services for Dependent Children
- Support Groups
- Mentors
- Ongoing Trainings
- Monthly Visits from Social Workers

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Step 1

- Attend Orientation

Step 2

- Submit Application & Documents
 - Include Criminal Record statement for all adults in the home
- Issuance of Approval Number

Step 3

- Assignment of RFA Worker

Step 4

- Fingerprinting (all persons 18 and over in the home) & assign Background Worker

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

CONTINUED

Step 5

- Background Checks Cleared

Step 6

- Attend Pre-Service Training

Step 7

- RFA worker shall conducted Home Environment Assessment

Step 8

- RFA Permanency Worker Assigned to Complete Permanency Assessment & Family Evaluation

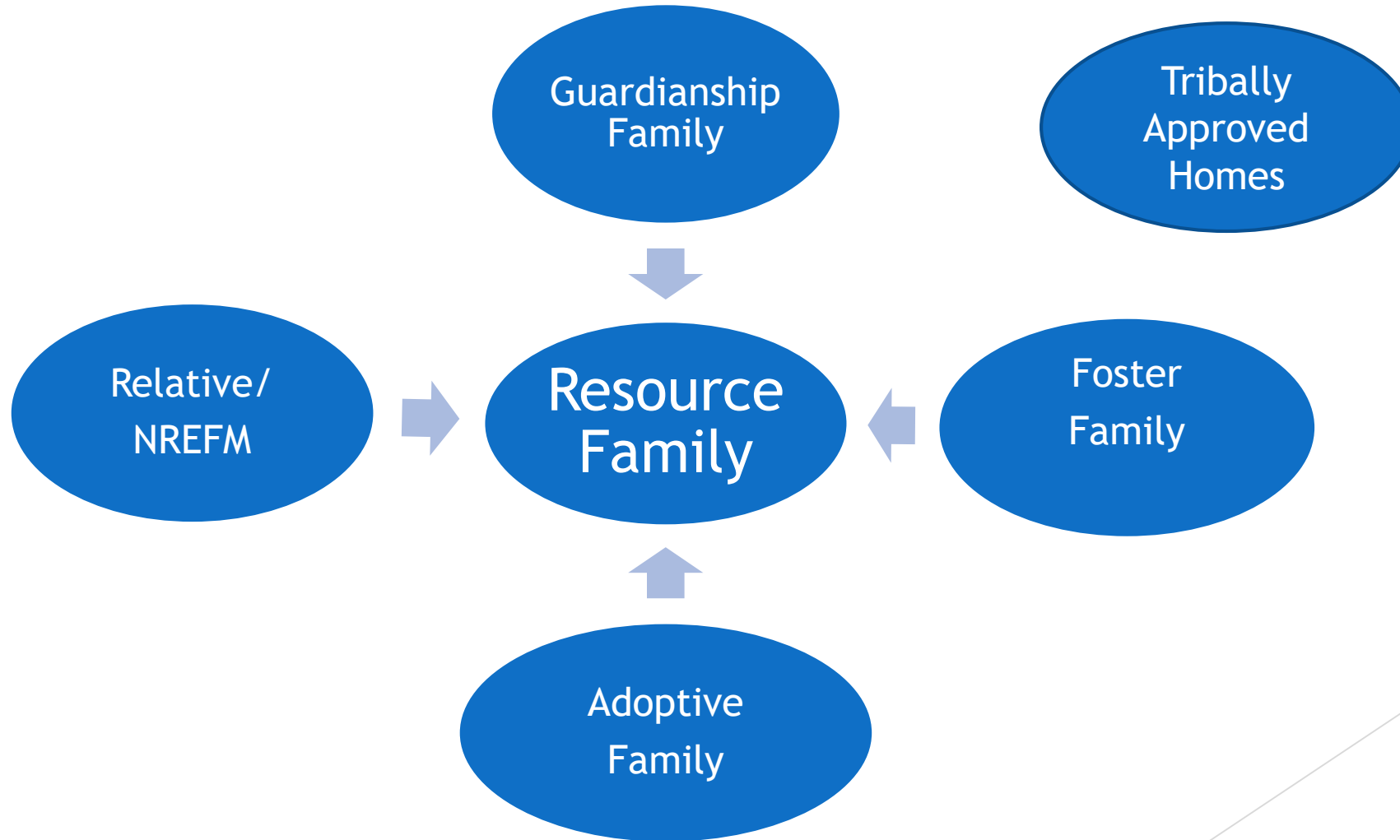
Step 9

- Receive Approval & Written Report

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WHAT IS A RESOURCE FAMILY?

What is a Resource Family?



RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ Single or Couple
- ✓ Own or Rent Your Home
- ✓ Sufficient Income
- ✓ 18 Years of Age or older
- ✓ Willing & able to Care for Children
- ✓ Live in Imperial County, with exception of relatives and non-related extended family members under a specific criteria



RESOURCE FAMILIES ARE...

- ▶ **Extraordinary people** who care for and embrace children of diverse cultures, who have been the victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment. These children need love, care and a sense of belonging until they can be reunified or reach permanency



RESPONSIBILITIES OF A RESOURCE FAMILY

Have the child's overall well being and safety as a priority by:

- Providing the child a safe, stable and loving home
- Being a part of the team by working collaboratively with the child and family, Social Workers, Court and other professionals working with the family
- Supporting family/sibling visitation
- Working with the child's parents to support reunification
- Provide transportation to medical/dental appointments, therapy, school, etc.
- Maintain house rules for safety and well-being of children

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A RESOURCE FAMILY

- Emergency Procedure
- Reporting Requirements
- Records Requirements
- Personal Rights
- Reasonable Prudent Parent
- Responsibility for providing care and supervision
- Understand limitations of specialized resource families
- The Quality Parent Initiative Partnership

Refer to Article 11 in Written Directives

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Guide>



MEET OUR CHILDREN

OUR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

- ✓ Neglected or abandoned
- ✓ Physically, emotionally or sexually abused
- ✓ Drug-exposed infants
- ✓ Developmental or medical needs
- ✓ All ages, including teens & non-minor dependents
- ✓ Siblings who want to stay together
- ✓ Teen parents with their babies
- ✓ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning youth
- ✓ Come from every ethnic and religious background



RESOURCE HOMES NEEDED

Critical Need for Homes

- Sibling Sets
- Older Children/Teens
- Developmental/Behavioral/Special Medical Needs
- Non Minor Dependents
- Pregnant Minors or Minor Parents
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Questioning Youth
- Children of various ethnic backgrounds



DISPROPORTIONALITY & DISPARITY

DISPROPORTIONALITY

- When the proportion of one group in CWS is larger than the proportion of the same group in the larger population

DISPARITY

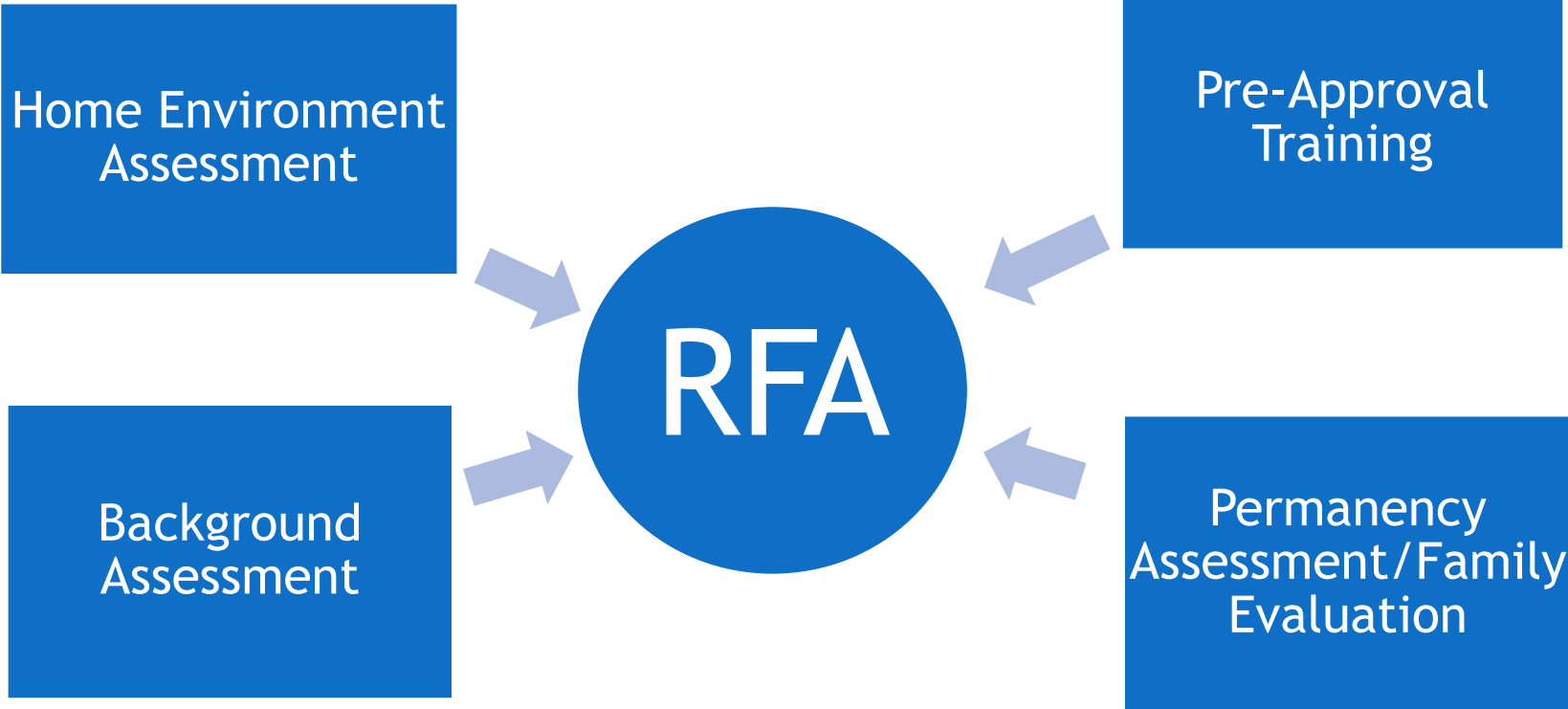
- The unequal outcomes experienced by one racial/ethnic group compared to the outcomes of another racial/ethnic group

We are in need of families to care for, support, and provide permanency for our children who are affected by disproportionality and disparity.

RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL PROCESS

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ELEMENTS OF AN APPROVAL



BACKGROUND ASSESSMENT

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BACKGROUND ASSESSMENT

All household members 18 years or older must participate in the background assessment process

- Comprehensive Live Scan
- Child Abuse Central Index
- Child Welfare History
- DMV
- Megan's Law Registered Sex Offender
- Adam Walsh-Child Protective and Safety Act 2006
- Administrative Action Records System (AARS) and Licensing Information System (LIS)



HOME ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT

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HOME ENVIRONMENT

- Home and Grounds
- Capacity Determination
- Storage Requirements
- Outdoor Activity Space



PROHIBITED IN RFA HOMES

- ✓ To smoke or permit any other person to smoke inside of the home and when a child or non minor dependent is present, on the outdoor grounds of the home and in a car
- ✓ Corporal Punishment (spanking, hitting, slapping, pinching)...
- ✓ Yelling, intimidating, humiliating, name calling...
- ✓ Sharing the child's confidential information



FIREARM REGULATIONS

Firearms must be stored unloaded and in a locked cabinet

They must also meet one of the following:

- ✓ Firing pin removed; must be locked separately from the firearm or
- ✓ Trigger lock applied

Ammunition must be:

- ✓ Stored under lock and key
- ✓ Separate from firearms



POOL REGULATIONS

All homes that accept children under 10 years of age or developmentally, mentally or physically disabled shall ensure that swimming pools and other bodies of water are inaccessible with either an approved fence or pool cover.

Pool fences or covers must be in compliance with the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) Codes F2286 and F1346-91



PRE-APPROVAL TRAINING

PRE-APPROVAL TRAINING

- Orientation
- 12 Hours of Trauma Informed Pre-Service (TIPS) Training
 - Includes Introduction to Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation Systems
 - Foster Parent College online trainings



To register call the RFA office at 760-428-2000, or
Contact Imperial Valley College at 760-355-6232

PERMANENCY ASSESSMENT

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FAMILY EVALUATION

- A minimum of 2 face-to-face interviews or each applicant
- Each applicant may be asked questions about:
 - Family History
 - Adult experiences and personal characteristics
 - Current marital status and history of marriages
 - Past and current alcohol and other substances use
 - Past and current physical and mental health
 - Motivation to become a resource family
 - Social support system
 - Employment and financial situation
 - Minimum of 2 references

WRITTEN REPORT

Upon completion of the RFA requirements, you will receive a written report which is a **summary** assessment of an applicant.

The written report includes the summary of the:

- ✓ Home environment assessment
- ✓ Background check assessment
- ✓ Permanency assessment
 - ✓ Family Evaluation
 - ✓ Pre-approval training



THANK YOU...

FOR CONSIDERING BECOMING A RESOURCE PARENT



Questions....call RFA at 760-482-2000