

Why QIC-EY



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CENTER
ON ENGAGING YOUTH IN
FINDING PERMANENCY

THE CHALLENGE

Too often, engagement with children and youth is treated as a procedural requirement rather than a genuine partnership. This can result unintentionally in child welfare professionals deciding “what is best” for children and youth rather than collaborating with them to determine what will help them thrive.

Many workers report feeling **unprepared** to facilitate authentic conversations or are **unsure** how to incorporate youth perspectives into planning. These deficits make it hard to create genuine, consistent relationships—and that’s where change must start.

THE SOLUTION: ELEVATE ENGAGEMENT

- › **Create systems** that value and support engaging children and youth in their own permanency planning.
- › **Elevate the skills** of child welfare professionals so they can develop productive and meaningful relationships with children and youth.
- › **Include children and youth** in decision-making so they are heard and empowered.



When [youth] are involved... you see fewer disruptions in their placements. You see permanency quicker when they are involved.

Barriers Report, p. 44

BENEFITS OF ENGAGING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

1.

Improves permanency and transition related outcomes while enhancing both child and agency wellbeing.

2.

Reduces time in care and expands safe permanency options (including kin and reunification), increasing the likelihood of timely legal permanency and ensuring children leave care with lasting family connections.

3.

Promotes fairness in decision-making, increasing young persons' satisfaction and commitment to the identified permanency outcome.



The QIC-EY is about using authentic child and youth engagement to find connections between what they want, what they need, and what you can do as a child welfare professional.

Thomas Threlkeld,
Lived Expert and Trainer for QIC-EY

Learn more about implementing QIC-EY in your state or organization by contacting Leslie Cohen.

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Transforming Engagement: Keeping Children at the Center of Our Work



**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CENTER
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Our training, built on research and real-life experience, gives caseworkers and supervisors practical tools to build authentic partnerships with children and youth. We focus on what matters most—listening to their voices, honoring cultural connections, and creating lasting relationships alongside legal permanency.

Through interactive modules designed with input from people with lived experience and professionals, participants learn strategies that make case and permanency planning more effective while ensuring young people feel heard and valued.



Easy to Integrate. Customizable for You.

Modules can slide right into your existing workforce training and can be tailored to meet state or tribal needs.

PROVEN IMPACT:

The QIC-EY Workforce Training was piloted in **four states and three tribal sites**. Compared to control groups in certain sites, those that implemented the QIC-EY Workforce Training reported measurable and meaningful change in the following overall outcomes areas since their initial training:



QIC-EY CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE TRAINING

MODULE #1:

Using Engagement to Move Toward Permanency: Foundational Module

MODULE #2:

Having Difficult and Sensitive Conversations

MODULE #3:

Informing and Preparing Children and Youth for Transitions

MODULE #4:

Trauma's Impact on Engagement

MODULE #5:

Supporting Cultural Connections

MODULE #6:

Partnership and Shared Decision-Making

MODULE #7:

Supporting Child and Youth Voice



LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE CURRICULUM

QIC-EY.ORG

“ I’m more confident talking to youth now. I understand that engagement is not just a meeting—it’s a mindset. ”

QIC-EY Training Participant