



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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*South Dakota Department of Health Child & Family Services*

# **NEEDS ASSESSMENT TALKING POINTS**

**2023-2025**

## STRUCTURE

**Goal:** Improve child and family health outcomes through a community-driven assessment of needs, prioritization of public health issues, and multi-sector approach for strategic action.

### Guiding Frameworks

- **Life Course Theory: an integrated continuum.** This perspective suggests that the many facets of life contribute to health outcomes across the course of one's life. It builds on public health and social science literature which highlight the influence of each stage of life on the next and shows how social, economic, and physical environments interact to have a profound impact on individual and community health.
- **Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative Framework:** a conceptual framework that illustrates the connection between social inequalities and health and focuses on measures that have yet to characteristically be within the scope of public health department epidemiology. The BARHII Framework describes the problem areas addressed by a continuum of public health practice ranging from cataloging causes of mortality and disease management to addressing social inequalities such as racism and class inequality.

### Guiding Principles

1. Reduce duplication of effort
2. Evidence-based decision making
3. Multi-sector approach that builds sustainable partnerships
4. Health equity focused
5. Ongoing engagement with diverse community members and working partners, including groups disproportionately impacted by health inequities.

## INFORMATION GATHERING & DATA COLLECTION

- Integral to a comprehensive process, including understanding health inequalities across the life course is to gather information and collect data from key stakeholders, populations served by OCFS programs, and partners. Methods will include a public input survey, regional partner and community meetings, and examining already collected data.

## STAKEHOLDER & PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

**Role:** Support data collection and information gathering, identification of additional partners and stakeholders, priority setting, and implementation of statewide plans to ensure a comprehensive assessment of OCFS program needs and assets across South Dakota and inform OCFS planning.

**Participation:** Stakeholders are asked to participate in information gathering and data collection methods outlined, including large in-person meetings to support collective input regarding gaps and strengths of OCFS programs and services, population health needs, and priorities to address needs. In-person meetings will be held in throughout the state in Spring 2024.

### Stakeholders

- OCFS program staff
- Population served by OCFS programs: parents, families, and children, including underserved and disparate populations, such as tribes, rural, low-income
- Partner organizations whose reach includes populations served by OCFS programs across the life course.

## COMMUNICATION PLAN

Communication about the needs assessment process is important to engage stakeholders and partners to gather information and collect data regarding the needs of populations served by OCFS programs and services, as well as opportunities to build the capacity of partners to support priority populations. Communication will occur through the following strategies:

- Project Launch:** OCFS needs assessment kicks off February 2024 with a webinar, and community survey.
- Data Briefs:** Resources will be developed to highlight key data regarding populations served by OCFS programs.
- Monthly Updates to Stakeholders and Partners:** Updates will be disseminated via e-mail regarding progress of the needs assessment process, opportunities for engagement, and information as needed.
- Local engagement of stakeholders and partners:** Engagement will occur through local OCFS meetings, partners, and outlets to reach stakeholders and partners.
- Digital, radio, and print marketing** will be utilized to invite engagement in the needs assessment process and data collection.

## CALL TO ACTION

To support a comprehensive and successful needs assessment process, consider the following:

**ASK**

**Who needs to be at the “table”?** Identify additional stakeholders, partners, and populations served to support comprehensive information gathering and data collection that assess the life course and examine health inequities.

**ASK**

**Where can stakeholders and partners be reached?** Identify community or statewide events and additional opportunities to reach stakeholders and partners to elicit input on data collection.

**ASK**

**What data sources or information are available to support information gathering and data collection?** Identifying data would support understanding the populations served by OCFS programs and services, as well as those populations who should be served.

**ASK**

**How can help promote the needs assessment process and engagement?** It will be important to promote the needs assessment process through stakeholders and partners, including inviting the public, partners, and stakeholders to participate in data collection methods. Opportunities to promote engagement will include the promotion of opportunities to participate in data collection through social media platforms, e-mail listserv, and personal communication.

**Partner organizations, families, and key stakeholders play an essential role in helping to improve services provided by the Office of Child and Family Services programs to support healthy families.**