

# Preparing Prospective Resource Families

An agency may offer trans-RCNO parenting information to prospective parents who request it but the agency must ensure that:

- Information is consistent with MEPA and Title VI.
- Information is provided regardless of the prospective parent's or the child or youth's RCNO.
- A prospective parent is not pressured to receive such information, even if the parent expresses interest in parenting across RCNO lines.
- It is not used as an assessment or home study tool.

An agency may offer trans-RCNO parenting information to prospective parents at its own discretion so long as:

- the information is made available in the context of preparing a parent, and not assessing a parent's capacity to parent a child/youth of a different RCNO.
- consideration of the information or participation in related services is not a precondition for parents who are of a certain RCNO or who want to pursue a trans-RCNO foster or adoptive placement.

In such instances, an agency may prepare a prospective parent to foster or adopt a child/youth of a different RCNO by:

- asking parents to describe their questions or concerns.
- connecting parents with helpful resources.
- offering post-placement services or support for parents who would like such services; for example, support or social groups.

Agencies should be very cautious when offering such information to a prospective parent, even in the context of preparing the parent. It is critical that the information is offered in the context of preparing the parent, and the agency must ensure that it does not offer trans-RCNO parenting information only the basis of the child or parent's RCNO.

