



Small hands **CHANGE** the world!

*Tene' Marion*  
*Prevention Administrator*  
*DCS Office of Prevention*



# CULTURAL BROKER PROGRAM COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Established in Fresno County, CA, the goal is to increase the overall well-being for at risk families by providing culturally-attuned services that will enable them to successfully navigate government agencies and programs while also addressing their individual needs.

Children and families experience improved results when child welfare agencies collaborate with the community to provide intervention services.

The Cultural Broker Program is a **COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH** and partnership with DCS - crucial for achieving positive results for families often overrepresented in child welfare and facing systemic barriers to services.

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# CULTURAL BROKER PROGRAM KEY BENEFITS

Bridge the knowledge gap between families and child welfare staff, enhancing understanding of safety, risk factors, and family strengths relevant to child protection and wellbeing.

Help families navigate the complex systems of child welfare and other institutions to obtain services that support child safety, family resilience, and overall family wellbeing.

Improve quality of relationships between child welfare staff and families, because Brokers provide family-specific, 1-on-1 supports to parents so that safety issues and other unmet needs can be addressed to improve child safety.

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# CULTURAL BROKER PROGRAM

## KEY FUNCTIONS IN JOINT EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Attend Pre-Commencement clinical supervision meetings
- Accompany DCS Specialist during initial engagement and interview
- Encourage family members to actively participate in investigation, assessment and planning, safety actions, and any other activity that fosters child safety
- Provide insight and feedback when conducting present danger assessment and planning
- Collaborate with DCS Specialist to determine appropriate safety actions (if needed)
- Help identify protective, non-offending family members as caregivers (if needed)
- Complete family needs assessment and connect the family to relevant resources
- Establish schedule for 1-on-1 supports to the family following initial engagement

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# CULTURAL BROKER PROGRAM KEY SUCCESSES OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Better communication between DCS and families



improved understanding of safety, risk factors, and family dynamics



successful navigation of the child welfare system.

In Fresno County, CA

**91%** of families accessing Broker services **DID NOT ENTER** the child welfare system within six months following the joint response.

**78%** of families accessing Broker services reported **IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AND TRUST** with the Department of Social Services.

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