

RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL (RFA)



RFA IS...



- Streamlined It eliminates the duplication of existing processes.
- Unifies approval standards for all caregivers regardless of the child's case plan.
- Includes a comprehensive psychosocial assessment, 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.



IN A NUTSHELL..... WHAT IS A RESOURCE FAMILY?

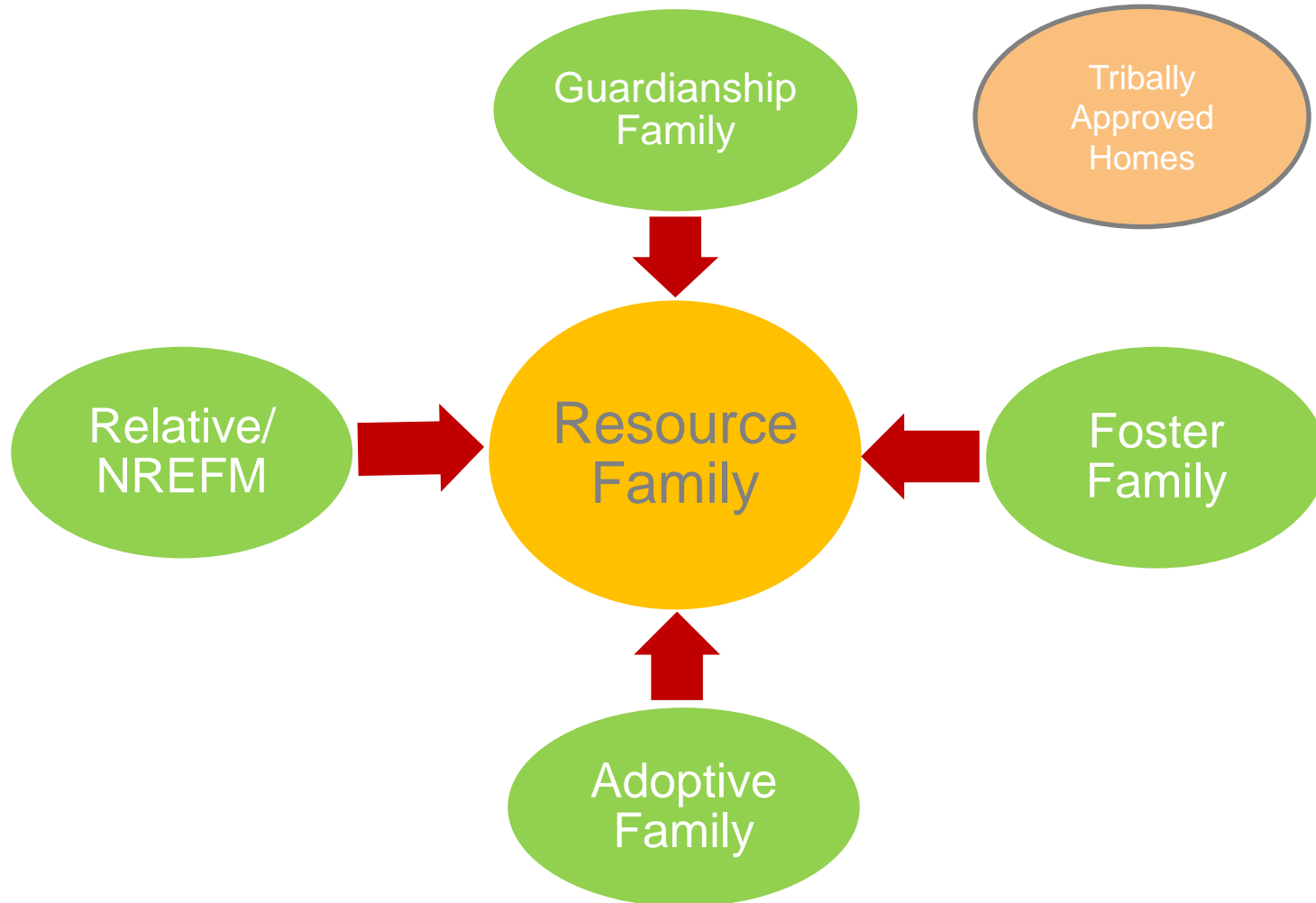


- Individual or couple that a county determines to have successfully met both the home approval, the application, and assessment criteria necessary for providing care for a child or non-minor dependent.

The term Resource Family incorporates terms such as foster parent, relative caregiver, adoptive family, guardian family, and relative/non-relative extended family member.



RFA... Who is included





- One application & background check.
- Combined home environment and permanency assessment.
- Pre-approval and post-approval training for all families.
- Emergency placement procedures for children prior to resource family approval.

RFA – WHAT DOES NOT CHANGE?



- CCL standards for home environment requirements – medications, firearms, bodies of water, capacity, bedrooms etc.
- Criminal background clearances are still required for all adults.
- Tribal staff working with tribal approved homes - Tribally approved homes are not required to adhere to the standards set forth in the Written Directives.





SOME OF THE CHANGES *FOR CAREGIVERS*

- Applicant worker will be Permanency Assessment worker
- Permanency Assessment replaces Home Study
- Pre-Service Training for approval will be 12 hours vs. 27 hours
- Applicant or Resource Family will receive a copy of the Written Report
- Kin caregivers are now approved to foster or adopted non-relative youth
- Conversion of existing homes
 - All County News Letter –No.16-58

