

# MOVING BEYOND NEGLECT

## Recommendations for **Child Welfare Workers**

We recommend that child welfare workers implement the following outstanding recommendations on child neglect :



When unmet material and service needs are identified, connect families with resources within your agency and community that can help fill these needs, being attentive to cultural relevance and supporting access by offering guidance and accompaniment.



When completing assessment and services plans, address factors outside of a caregiver's control that contribute to situations in which a child's needs are unmet. Consider any historic and structural factors that can create barriers to effective caregiving, including:

- Lack of access to essential resources and services, such as a livable income; safe and stable housing; affordable, quality childcare; mental health care; and treatment for substance misuse.
- Trauma and intergenerational trauma, including, trauma experienced by Indigenous communities in residential schools, through the 60s scoop, and beyond.
- Caregivers who were raised in the child welfare system, and who lacked models for healthy caregiving.



Recognize the validity and value of culturally diverse caregiving practices. Acknowledge that mainstream ideas about "good" parenting are biased and do not reflect the diversity of families (in particular families with Indigenous, Black and 2SLGBTQ+ caregivers).



Take a broad view of the caregiving system when completing assessments and establishing care plans.



Acknowledge that caregivers are the experts on their own families. Wherever possible, work collaboratively with them to identify the challenges their families are facing, explore solutions, and build on strengths to support their children's well-being.