Family Engagement in Systems Assessment Tools (FESAT)

1. **Plan**
   - Identify supports already in place to ensure meaningful family engagement.
   - Explore strategies and resources for additional ways to encourage and support family engagement.

2. **Assess**
   - Compare perspectives on how family engagement is going.
   - Identify what is working well.
   - Identify areas for improvement.

3. **Improve**
   - Complete the FESAT and use the results as a baseline score.
   - Identify an area for improvement and select a strategy from the FES Toolkit that can help.
   - Complete the FESAT again at scheduled intervals and compare results to the baseline.

Child- and family-serving organizations can use the Checklist in the Family Engagement in Systems (FES) Toolkit to establish family engagement processes.

- Identify supports already in place to ensure meaningful family engagement.
- Explore strategies and resources for additional ways to encourage and support family engagement.

Families and staff can use the FESAT to learn if families have the information and supports they need to participate, partner, and contribute to decision-making groups.

- Complete the FESAT and use the results as a baseline score.
- Identify an area for improvement and select a strategy from the FES Toolkit that can help.
- Complete the FESAT again at scheduled intervals and compare results to the baseline.

Request the FESAT ([https://familyvoices.org/fesat-request-form/](https://familyvoices.org/fesat-request-form/))

For questions or technical assistance, email Beth Dworetzky ([bdworetzky@familyvoices.org](mailto:bdworetzky@familyvoices.org))
A Title V program wanted to ensure meaningful engagement of diverse families in the Title V Needs Assessment.

- Used the Family Engagement Checklist in the FES Toolkit to identify supports already in place.
- Identified strategies to reach diverse and hard-to-reach families, such as:
  - Provide stipends and transportation.
  - Provide materials in multiple languages.
  - Hold focus groups in multiple languages at familiar gathering places in the community.

A Medicaid program created a family advisory group and used the FESAT to assess how well they were engaging families. Findings included:

- Families were involved in choosing goals.
- Families felt listened to.
- Staff did not acknowledge if and how they used family input.

A children’s hospital used the FESAT to improve family engagement in a 2-year patient safety initiative. Staff and families:

- Completed the FESAT and used the results as a baseline.
- Identified an area for improvement (staff and families needed to improve communication and partnership skills).
- Partnered with a family-led organization for leadership workshops.
- Completed the FESAT again, compared new results to baseline and saw improvement.