

# Informal Caregivers Research Project (INCARE)

## **Ecomap Interview Protocol**

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## ECOMAP DATA COLLECTION WITH INFORMAL CAREGIVERS

1. *Draw a large circle in the middle of the map. This circle will represent the informal caregiver's household and the members within it.*
2. **Please tell me about the children and adults who live in your home. Please tell me their names, ages, and relationship to you.** *Inside the large circle, write the household members' names (including the respondent's), ages and relationship to respondent in the circle [for example, Mary (41, respondent), John (39, husband)].*
3. *Inquire about the families and children for whom the informal caregiver provides care: **For how many families do you provide care?** You will draw a circle for each family and document the answers to the questions below. Ask all questions for the first family before moving onto the second and subsequent family.*
  - a) **For the [first/next] family, how many children who are not your own children (either biological, adopted, or children for whom you are the legal guardian) do you care for?** *It may be helpful to label the families by last name for ease of reference in subsequent questions.*
  - b) **Please tell me the names of the children you take care of who are not your own children in [Family A, B, etc.]. If any of the children are related, please let me know.**
  - c) **How old is [Child A], [Child B], etc.?**
  - d) **How do you know [Family A, B, etc.] (for example, neighbor, friend, a family member)?**
  - e) **Can you tell me a little bit about how you came to care for each [Child A], [Child B], etc.?** *Caregivers may provide the same reason for siblings, but the questions should be asked for each child in the event the answer is different.*
  - f) **How often do you take care of each child? Please tell me the days and hours he or she is in your care.**
  - g) **How long have you been caring for [Child A], [Child B], etc.?**
  - h) **Do you receive any payment for your time caring for the children in [Family A, B, etc.]?** *If the answer is yes, ask questions i and ii.*
    - i. *If yes: **Do you receive money directly from families to care for their children?***

- ii. **If yes: Do you receive payment through child care subsidies or vouchers that support parents who are working or in school? (These are available through CalWORKs and California's Alternative Payment Program.)**
    - 1. *If yes: How did you learn about these subsidies? Only ask this question about the first family as we can assume the answer applies to other families.*
    - 2. *If no: Are you familiar with these subsidies? If so, how did you find out about them? Only ask this question about the first family as we can assume the answer applies to other families.*
  - i) **Do you receive anything besides payment for your time, such as trading child care with the parents of the child(ren) you care for in [Family A, B, etc.]?**
4. *Inquire about from whom the caregiver seeks support related to parenting or caring for other children.*
- a) **Who do you talk to about being a caregiver to [Child A, B, etc.]? Draw a circle for each source of support. Write the name of the person or organization and relationship to the respondent.**

*Probe: Or where do you get advice related to caring for [Child A, B, etc.]? For example, do you get advice from someone in your family, a doctor, a community agency or organization, a friend, or neighbor?*
  - b) **How would you describe your relationship with each person? Draw lines between the respondent and sources of support indicating the strength of the relationship using the relationship key below. You can summarize the quality of the relationship if none of the lines depicted below best captures the relationship.**

*Probe: Can you describe the type and quality of support you receive from each person? (For example, is [insert name] a strong support for you? Is this someone you can consistently rely on? How does this person provide support?)*
  - c) *Ask about partners or other adult members of the household as sources of support if the respondent does not identify them as such.*
  - d) *Write any key words or brief quotes that the respondent shares about each person.*

## RELATIONSHIP KEY



A solid or thick line represents an important, strong, or positive connection



A broken line represents a tenuous or weak connection



Lines with crosses through them indicate a stressful relationship



Arrows along the line point towards the direction or flow of resources, energy or interest.

## ECOMAP DATA COLLECTION WITH PARENTS

1. *Draw a large circle in the middle of the map. This circle will represent the parent's household and the members within it.*
2. **Please tell me about the children and adults who live in your home. Please tell me their names, ages, and relationship to you.** *Inside the large circle, write the household members' names (including the respondent's), ages and relationship to respondent in the circle [for example, Mary (41, respondent), John (39, husband)].*
3. *Inquire about whom the parent uses for informal care.*
  - a) **Please tell me the name of each caregiver who takes care of your child(ren).** *Draw a circle for each caregiver and leave enough space to answer the remaining questions. Ask all questions for the first caregiver before moving onto the second and subsequent caregiver.*
  - b) **How do you know [Caregiver]? (for example, neighbor, friend, a family member) Which child(ren) do/does the caregiver provide care for?**
  - c) **Can you tell me a little bit about how [Caregiver] came to care for your child(ren)?**
  - d) **How often does he/she care for your child(ren)? Please tell me the days and hours your child(ren) is/are in the caregiver's care.**
  - e) **How long has he/she been caring for your child(ren)?**
  - f) **Does [Caregiver] receive any payment for his/her time caring for your child(ren)?** *If the answer is yes, ask questions i and ii.*
    - i. *If yes: **Do you pay the [Caregiver] to care for your child(ren)?***
    - ii. *If yes: **Does [Caregiver] receive payment through child care subsidies or vouchers that support parents who are working or in school? (These are available through CalWORKs and California's Alternative Payment Program.)***
      1. *If yes: **How did you learn about these subsidies? Only ask this question about the first caregiver as we can assume the answer applies to other caregivers.***
      2. *If no: **Are you familiar with these subsidies? If so, how did you find out about them? Only ask this question about the first caregiver as we can assume the answer applies to other caregivers.***

- g) **Does [Caregiver] receive anything besides payment for his/her time, such as trading child care with you?**

4. *Inquire about from whom the parent seeks support related to parenting.*

- a) **Who do you talk to about parenting?** *Draw a circle for each source of support. Write their name and relationship to the respondent.*

*Probe: Or where do you get advice related to parenting? For example, do you get advice from someone in your family, a doctor, a community agency or organization, a friend or neighbor, etc.?*

- b) **How would describe your relationship with each person?** *Draw lines between the respondent and sources of support indicating the strength of the relationship using the relationship key below. You can summarize the quality of the relationship if none of the lines depicted below best captures the relationship.*

*Probe: Can you describe the type and quality of support you receive from each person? (For example, is [insert name] someone a strong support for you? Is this someone you can consistently rely on? How does this person provide support?)*

- c) *Ask about informal caregivers, partners and other adult members of the household as source of support if the parent does not identify them as such.*

- d) *Write any key words or brief quote that the respondent shares about each person.*

#### **RELATIONSHIP KEY**

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|---|---|
|  | A solid or thick line represents an important, strong, or positive connection               |
|  | A broken line represents a tenuous or weak connection                                       |
|  | Lines with crosses through them indicate a stressful relationship                           |
|  | Arrows along the line point towards the direction or flow of resources, energy or interest. |