

# **BEST INITIATIVE**

## **Youth Worker Certificate Program Curriculum Outline**

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### **Session One:**

Introduction of Youth Development Approach  
Framing the Training Institute  
Introduction to the Common Language Framework

#### **Objectives:**

- Participants will be able to identify the goals and structure of the Training Institute.
- Participants will have a definition of Youth Development and the Youth Development Approach.
- Participants will be able to identify terms used in the Common Language Framework of the Youth Development Approach.
- Participants will articulate their program's Premise, Principles and Practices.

### **Session Two:**

Positive Youth Outcomes  
Services, Opportunities and Supports  
Structuring Activities

#### **Objectives:**

- Participants will be able to articulate Positive Youth Outcomes (PYOs) for individual youth as well as the PYOs their programs fulfill for youth served.
- Participants will be able to articulate how SOS (Services, Opportunities and Supports) promotes the Youth Development Approach.

### **Session Three:**

Adolescent Developmental Stages  
Resiliency  
Developmental Needs

#### **Objectives:**

- Participants will be able to describe two or more needs and behaviors of adolescents in the early, middle, and late stages.
- Participants will be able to articulate factors that promote resiliency in their programs.
- Participants will be able to identify how their programs meet the developmental needs of adolescents.

### **Session Four:**

Diversity  
Cultural Competence  
Mattering and Marginality

#### **Objectives:**

- Participants will be able to identify how culturally relevant information impacts service to diverse communities.
- Participants will be able to express the important role of values and articulate how assumptions operate in their programs.
- Participants will be able to identify assumptions about youth and how they are played out in practice.

### **Session Five:**

Adultism & Stereotypes of Youth  
Youth Participation Strategies  
Behavioral Management

#### Objectives:

- Participants will understand how to and gain skills to prevent adultism.
- Participants will be able to explain the forms and levels of Youth Participation in their programs.
- Participants will have the tools to define and express two or more positive and/or preventative behavior management techniques.

### **Session Six:**

Building Healthy Relationships and Boundaries  
Youth Workers as Community Resources  
Self Assessment Tool

#### Objectives:

- Participants will have activities and language to support healthy personal and organizational boundaries for/with youth.
- Participants will be able to recognize themselves and professional peers as community resources.
- Participants will be able to identify resources in their communities and organizations.
- Participants will be able to articulate knowledge, skills, and aptitudes they possess as youth development workers.

### **Session Seven:**

Identifying Core Competencies  
Building Healthy Environments  
Cumulative Review

#### Objectives:

- Participants will be able to articulate knowledge, skills, and aptitudes they possess as youth development workers.
- Participants will be able to identify key strengths and needs in their own professional development.
- Participants will be able to integrate the concepts of youth development into a program model.

### **Session Eight:**

Professional Development Portfolio  
Present Teach-back and Certificates

#### Objectives:

- Participants will review lessons learned and create presentations of Youth Development approach concepts.
- Participants will be able to articulate the youth development focus in the context of their work.
- Participants will describe and document their training history as well as needs.