



The YSP/KSA Training Modules

Youth Service Professionals (YSPs) are adults who work with young people ages 14 – 25 in a variety of settings as they transition to continued education, work, and independent living. YSPs deliver a varied set of opportunities, supports, and services to a diverse population of young people. The Youth Service Professionals' Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (YSP/KSAs) capture the knowledge, skills and abilities needed by YSPs. The YSP/KSAs include nine day-long training modules; a set of overarching skills that ensure the safety and inclusion of all youth are woven throughout the modules.

Advancing the Youth Service Field (Module 1)

Applying positive development youth principles and relevant laws, and exploring the role of YSPs as related to confidentiality, ethics, and boundaries.

Communicating Effectively with Youth (Module 2)

Advocating for and recruiting youth in a culturally competent manner, developing trusting relationships, and engaging youth using social media.

Assessment and Individualized Planning (Module 3)

Assessing youths' strengths, involving them in planning processes, and engaging key stakeholders.

Strengthening Relationships with Family and Community (Module 4)

Engaging families to support youth transition, mapping resources to connect youth to community, and preparing young people for civic engagement.

Career Preparation and Exploration (Module 5)

Assessing youths' career interests, connecting youth to career exploration and work-based learning, applying a career-coaching mindset, and applying labor market trends to coaching.

Securing Resources and Connecting Across Systems (Module 6)

Building partnerships to connect young people to other organizations and systems, and braiding and blending funds to maximize services for youth.

Relationships with Employers (Module 7)

Understanding employer needs, developing partnerships with employers, supporting employers once youth are employed, and involving employers in career exploration.

Quality Program Implementation (Module 8)

Understanding effective program design, using data for management and improvement, and fostering youth leadership.

Preparing Youth for the Workforce (Module 9)

Enhancing young people's employability and self-advocacy skills, preparing youth to find and retain a job, and working with employers to customize employment opportunities.

Inclusion and Safety for All Youth (Woven Throughout the Nine Modules)

Applying universal design, trauma-informed practice, youth voice, disability awareness and etiquette, mindfulness of racial bias and intergenerational poverty, and informed choice as a foundation for providing ethical and effective services.

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