



HSU Course Outline

Family Engagement Credentialing Course – Basic

IFPAC5

3 Days

Description

The family engagement basic credential is a specialized Head Start credentialing program for family workers that want to improve the quality of Head Start families they serve. Being a “**Head Start**” credentialed Family Worker makes all the difference. Head Start family workers who want Head Start recognition for their professional achievement and who want to unlock new Head Start career paths come to HS University for their credentials. Using the Head Start Program Performance Standards, the Head Start Act and the Head Start competency goals and indicators as our curricula, HS University's Family Engagement Credentialing course focuses on obtaining valuable support services and strategies through hands on learning, family support skill mastery and regulations assessment. Obtaining a “Head Start” credentialing status is the next progression in a Head Start family worker's professional career. Beyond the educational degree, a “Head Start” credential denotes professional commitment and achievement and represents a "plus" feature of Head Start knowledge and experience that meets or exceeds excellence in family service at the national level. Head Start family workers agree to a critical review process that includes evaluation of the candidate's educational preparation, practice experience and peer review of observable skills and abilities. The Professional Credential in Head Start Family Engagement is a competency-based training program and curricula environment relevant to the work of a Head Start Family Worker. The course includes a Head Start mandated approach to the assessment and goal writing process. The course is linked to academic credit and degree programs as well as to the licensing of Family Workers through the National Association of Social Worker. The course is built on the concept of adult learners and accommodates the training needs of current Head Start staff who are unable to complete a 3 month or 6 month program. This three day course is designed for new and experienced family support staff. The course will help family workers support parents as they identify and meet their own goals, nurture the development of their children in the context of their family and culture, and advocate for communities that are supportive of children and families of all cultures. You learn to address family goal setting through the family partnership process, develop method of helping families access community services and resources, how to implement services to pregnant women, and procedures to ensure parent involvement across all areas of Head Start, including child development and education, health, nutrition, mental health education, community advocacy, transition practices and home visits.

Prerequisites

- Knowledge of Performance Standards
- Knowledge of family Assessment

Who Should Take This Course?

This course is designed for Family Workers, Health Workers, Education Workers, Parent Involvement Workers, Administrative Staff, Manager, Program Area Managers, Directors, Coordinators or anyone working in Head Start staff who are responsible for providing strategies for a supportive parent environment.

Objectives

- ✓ Learn how to partner with individual families
- ✓ Learn how to work with families to develop and implement family partnership agreements
- ✓ Learn how to help families understand and assess the impact of their life events
- ✓ Encourage a family's growth and development
- ✓ Understand how to develop and maintain a service tracking system of each family's progress
- ✓ Develop systems to ensure timely and accurate follow-up
- ✓ Understand and uphold their professional responsibilities including confidentiality
- ✓ Learn to become culturally aware and use cultural assessment tools that best meet a family's cultural needs
- ✓ Offer Families support based on their strengths, interests and needs
- ✓

Outline

Day 1

Head Start Requirement

- Understanding 1304.40
- Family Goal Setting
- Accessing Community Services
- Services to Pregnant Women
- Parent Involvement
- Education
- Health
- Community Advocacy
- Transition Activities
- Home Visits

HS Competency Goals and Indicators

- Head Start Competency Goals & Indicators
- Family Development Movement
- Nurturing the Promise

What is Head Start Family Support?

- Family Support Principles
- Building Blocks to Family Support
- Applying the Principles of Family Support
- Staff-Family Partnerships

Skills for Working with HS Families

- Family/Staff Partnering
- Influences between Staff/Family
- Strategies needed to partner
- Demonstrating Supportive Behaviors
- Parent Behavior & Personality Styles
- Demonstrating Skills in Partnership Talk
- Joining a Family

Family Assessments

- Strength Approach
- Types of Strengths
- Defining Family Strengths
- Reframing for Strengths
- Identifying Key Players

Assisting families in Crisis

- Identifying families in crisis

Day 2

Responding to families in crisis

- Crisis intervention responses
- Crisis intervention skills
- Defusing a family crisis

Exploring Family Growth

- The Family Life Cycle

Family Partnerships Agreements

- Visioning
- Creating the Family Picture

Achieving the Family Goals

- Setting SMART Strategies
- Setting Timetables
- Assigning Responsibilities

Practicing Professionalism

- Developing Professionalism
- Confidentiality

- Roles and Boundaries

- Mandated Reporting

- Record-Keeping

Cultural Diversity

- Anti-Bias, Culture and Diversity
- Understanding family diversity
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Cultural communication

Communicating in Head Start

- Affirming Communication
- Communication Stories

Speaking & Listening Respectfully

- Successful Conversation with Parents
- Communication Helpers
- Listening Well
- Giving Feedback
- Using "I" Messages

Plain Language Writing

- Looking at Readability
- Analyzing Writing
- Making Simpler Sentences
- Improving Communication Efforts

Day 3

The Communication Process

- Communication Environment
- Communication Styles
- Creating a Climate of Communication
- Establishing a System for Sharing

Home Visiting

- Approaching Home visiting
- Respectful Home Visits
- Safety Issues

Parent Involvement

- Involving Head Start Parents

Collaboration

- Community Resources

Exam Review

- Reviewing the questions

FEC Exam