

## Executive Summary

### **Course Title: Improving Educational Outcomes for Foster Youth**

**Course Description:** Completing an education is the single greatest predictor of a successful transition outcome to adulthood. Foster youth face significant challenges in completing their education that often contributes to poor educational and transition outcomes. This training reviews the barriers that foster youth and the educational experience from the foster youth perspective. The training will provide participants with a comprehensive approach for improving educational outcomes for foster youth that includes all levels of education, the role of providers, academic and vocational practices, and how to engage foster youth in their education. The course also includes promising practices and resources that can be used to implement educational strategies for foster youth. Participants will gain experience in developing plans for improving educational outcomes for individual youth under their care and in developing system recommendations for how child welfare and the schools can work together to ensure that foster youth achieve an education.

### **Course Objectives**

- To increase understanding of the importance of education, current foster youth outcomes, and the challenges facing foster youth in completing their education.
- To increase knowledge of strategies for improving educational outcomes for foster youth including engaging youth in their education, school collaboration and stability, early educational intervention, comprehensive assessment, family and foster care involvement, educational advocacy, tutoring and academic support, enhanced education programs, special education, vocational development, and post secondary education.
- To increase knowledge of promising practices and resources available for implementing strategies to improve educational outcomes.
- To gain experience in developing a comprehensive educational plan for individual foster youth under your care.
- To develop recommendations of educational strategies that can be used with child welfare and the schools to improve outcomes for foster youth.

### **Target Audience**

The course is appropriate for experienced social workers as well as those relatively new to the job. The course builds on the information presented in the Core training Educational Rights. Concepts in the training are transferable to those working in all aspect of child welfare.

### **Ways that Supervisors can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the job...**

#### **BEFORE the training**

1. Supervisors can support the learning by meeting individually with trainees to discuss why the training is being provided and any concerns trainees may have about being required to attend the training.
2. In meetings with individual trainees supervisors can identify any specific growth areas the trainee may have in the documentation part of his/her job.
3. Supervisors can speak with trainees about any learning goals they may have for themselves in the area of education outcomes for children and youth in care.

#### **AFTER the training**

1. In individual meetings with trainees supervisors can ask each trainee to identify a practice that s/he will be implementing as a result of attending the training.
2. Supervisors can reinforce learning by clearly stating their expectations regarding changes in education practices that they wish to see implemented by trainees.