

## Executive Summary

### Course Title: Toolkit For Foster Parents

#### Outline of Training:

Description: Based on ***Adolescents And Families For Life: A Toolkit For Supervisors*** and the other Toolkits in the series, this one-day training on permanence for youth will remind participants that achieving permanence is a process, a continuum, If we are to make permanence as intuitive as safety, each foster parent has to be committed to and intimately involved in the process. This workshop makes the role of addressing the children and youth's need for belonging a recognized part of the role of foster parents as well as professionals.

#### Agenda & Process

1. The agenda for this workshop is packed with possibilities. Although it will touch the whole "continuum of permanence", the workshop will begin by polling the participants for the most important aspects for the day's participants. It will continue by
2. Understanding each child's need to belong youth within on their developmental levels
3. Refining skills required to speak with youth about permanency and other important life issues
4. Identifying and addressing the key elements necessary to assist youth in preparing for additional family connections, especially the central issue of grief and it affects on the children in their homes
5. Engaging youth in the permanency process and responding to their commonly-raised objections
6. Finding and developing family ties
7. Examining shared parenting as it applies to them and to all the parenting partners
8. Viewing permanence as a process and as a continuum of practice that requires persistence
9. Thinking about where children and families are in the permanency planning process
10. Examining what supports families and children need to be successful

The agenda will be delivered through a combination of PowerPoint presentation, storytelling, case examples, small and large group discussion, handouts and exercises including at least one based on Appreciative Inquiry

**Target Audience:** *All those parenting foster and adoptive children*

#### **Outcome Objectives for Participants:**

*As a result of this training, participants will have an understanding of the 10 tasks of adolescents, the 40 development assets important to every child and the 5 promises we make to all children and some of the ways to address all those*

*needs for children in their day to day care; information and resources on child and adolescent development for sharing with other in their lives and specifically with the children; they will also have an understanding of how they have done their best work in engaging youth and how to apply their best work to the future work.*

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

#### **BEFORE the training**

*Review the executive summary to identify what elements of the continuum of permanence are most pressing for the foster parents at this time. Ask the participants to plan to take one or two of the 40 developmental assets to work on with the children in their homes. Ask them to think about the children & youth's desperate need to belong and how they might share parenting to achieve it.*

#### **AFTER the training**

*Set a time line for the "next steps" for the children in their homes along the continuum of permanence. As they apply next steps, openly ask for the support and training they need to help their children achieve that sense of belonging that they need and crave, discuss further training that could support this training. Identify next steps for them and their children.*