

What You Get with the BEST Youth Worker Training Certificate

Provides core competencies

The Training Certificate Program both instructs youth workers in the youth development approach and trains them in competencies that are basic to the field of youth work. It certifies a youth worker's professional knowledge to potential employers, independent of past employment experience.

Puts you on the leading edge in the youth work field

Your BEST training will teach you the youth work practices that have been deemed best by experts in this field, placing you in the forefront of the national movement to standardize and professionalize youth work.

Recognized by employers

Many employers will recognize the value and content of the Training Certificate Program and will consider it an asset when hiring, evaluating, and promoting employees. Some will even require it.

Training that gives you credit

With the BEST Training Certificate, you can earn credits/competencies at two Boston-area higher education institutions: Springfield College/Boston Campus School of Human Services and UMass/Boston College of Public and Community Service. Both institutions offer youth-work related concentrations developed in collaboration with BEST.

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BEST

**Building
Exemplary
Systems for
Training Youth Workers**



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Parents United for Child Care
YMCA of Greater Boston
Boston Coalition
National Institute on Out-of-School Time

BEST is a project of The Medical Foundation.

TMF THE MEDICAL FOUNDATION

United Way
of Massachusetts Bay

**Get better.
Get BEST!**



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Youth Worker Training Certificate Program

**Providing professional support
and training certificate programs
for youth workers**

www.youthworkcentral.org

The BEST
Initiative is
a project of
The Medical Foundation.

BEST: Providing Professional Support, Training, and Networking for Youth Workers

The BEST Initiative is a professional development program for youth workers that provides work-related support and training to develop knowledgeable and competent youth workers with a strong understanding of basic competencies of the field as well as youth development principles and practices.

BEST offers a variety of services for youth worker training and education, as well as networking with fellow youth workers and youth agencies:

BEST Training Institute: A Youth Worker Training Certificate Program providing training in the youth development approach and the basic competencies of youth work. The BEST Training Institute also offers supervisor training and ongoing training programs.

Agency Collaborative: A group of managers of youth-serving organizations who collaborate to advise BEST.

Professional Development: Opportunities for learning that are offered in addition to the Youth Worker Training Certificate Program.

Documentation: On-line, password-protected professional development portfolios that allow BEST graduates to quantify their skills and document their professional growth.

Systemization: Identification of continuing institutional and financial support for the BEST Youth Worker Training Certificate Program and promotion of BEST recognition by higher education.

BEST Youth Worker Training Certificate Program

The Training Certificate Program offers standardized, recognized, and easy-to-access professional training focusing on youth development principles and the fundamental skills of youth work. It establishes a knowledge base, a common language, a philosophy of the profession, and an awareness of best practices in the field of youth development. That means that youth workers and their employers will be working together “on the same page,” with better-known expectations and greater respect for the field.

BEST Supports Youth Worker Associations

BEST works closely with youth worker associations through partnerships on projects such as youth worker forums, networking opportunities, and ongoing training programs on current issues.



Youth Development: What It's All About

Youth development is an ongoing process through which youth gain the personal, social, academic, and citizenship competencies necessary for successful and full adolescence and adult life.

It's about more than simply preventing problems. Through youth development, youth workers help young people have fuller, more successful lives by building on youths' particular capacities, strengths and formative needs.



Working with youth is one of the most important jobs there is. Professional youth workers help young people become healthy and productive adolescents and grow into adulthood by:

- focusing on assets, not problems
- building caring relationships
- utilizing the resources of youth, families, communities, and fellow youth workers

The BEST Training Institute

The BEST Training Institute is a response to the youth-work field's need for recognition of and training in best practices based on positive, healthy outcomes for youth. It boosts the professionalism of youth work—and ultimately improves the quality of service to youth.

To earn a BEST Youth Worker Training Certificate, you must complete the 28-hour BEST Training Institute. The trainings are interactive and provide participants with opportunities to network and learn from other participants, as well as from instructors with experience and expertise in youth development.

Training Institute programs cover:

- **The youth development approach**
- **A common language framework**
- **Identifying and developing core competencies for youth development workers**
- **Working with youth/adolescents**

The BEST Training Institute incorporates the Advancing Youth Development (AYD) curriculum, including its youth development approach, and the School Age Child-Care/Youth Worker Basic Competencies. The AYD curriculum is the result of research and evaluation by the Center for Youth Development and Policy Research of the Academy for Educational Development in partnership with the National Network for Youth.