

Competencies & Credentialing FAQ's

What/who is a youth worker?

A youth worker is anyone who works with youth in a setting outside of the traditional classroom.

What are core competencies?

Core competencies are based on the knowledge, skills, and personal attributes/implementation abilities of youth workers. Core competencies are the “demonstrated capacities” that allow a youth worker to be a resource to youth, organizations, and communities.

Where do the core competencies come from?

Early in 2002, a group of statewide leaders within the youth development field, as well as state government, higher education, and prevention services were convened to address 1) the shortage of well trained, qualified youth workers in Indiana, and 2) concerns related to the need to raise the status of the field of youth work by developing core competencies and then qualifying practitioners in the field with a professional credential.

On August 29, 2003, what became known as the Indiana Youth Development Credential Congress ratified a set of core competencies and a credentialing process that is the Indiana Youth Development (IYD) Credential.

Why are core competencies important/why do we need them?

Core competencies are important because:

- Youth workers play a significant role in raising our children and shaping our future citizenry and workforce.
- Core competencies provide youth workers and youth serving organizations with a framework for developing quality programs and services and for evaluating the performance of child and youth care staff.
- Core competencies help to make the case that youth work is a profession.

Why should youth workers/I be credentialed?

Obtaining the IYD provides:

- Professional recognition of your education, training and experience
- Recertification provides increased motivation to participate in ongoing training and professional development opportunities
- The potential for enhanced access to employment and advances in employment in child and youth work settings/agencies

What is the process to become credentialed?

Currently there are two different paths for earning an IYD Credential:

Standard Process for an IYD requires that a person have:

1. At least a High School Diploma or GED
2. 480 hours of experience working with children/youth
3. Approximately 180 hours of completed classes/training that cover Youth Development, Families and Communities, Program Environment, Program Content and Professionalism (this is approximately 12 college credits)
4. Completed a practicum/field placement observed and approved by an Advisor and Independent Reviewer selected by the Indiana YouthPRO Association
5. Membership in the Indiana YouthPRO Association

Alternate Process for an IYD requires that a person have:

1. Education - an Associate, Bachelor, or Master Degree with a minimum of 12 credits in Youth Development or a related field; or
 - a. Degree plus 180 hours of non-credit training and/or experience in Youth Development within the past 3 years that relate to the Core Competencies; or
 - b. Degree plus 20 Continuing Education Hours/Units (CEH/CEU) earned during the past 3 years that relate to the Core Competencies.
2. At least 480 hours as an employee, volunteer or intern in an organized program environment that serves children or youth aged 5 to 18 within the past 5 years.
3. Membership in the Indiana YouthPRO Association

For more information go to <http://www.indianayouthpro.org/iyd.htm>.

CYC-P offered by the Child & Youth Care Certification Board, Inc. *The Child & Youth Care Professional Certification (CYC-P) is a national certification that is awarded only to child & youth care professionals who have demonstrated a master-level competency in the field. It is the highest certification level available and is sanctioned by the professional CYC community in the United States.*

For more information go to <http://www.acycp.org/cyc%20certification%20board/default.htm>.

How long will it take, and how much will it cost for me to obtain my certification or credential?

IYD

- IYD Application Fee is \$25 + a \$325 Assessment Fee
- Indiana YouthPro Association Membership Dues for Individuals range from \$20-60

CYC-P

- CYC-P Certification Exam Fee is \$75
- CYC-P Application Fee is \$100

Applicants may apply as they qualify for either certification. Completion of the IYD is at the applicant's own pace. Completion of the CYC-P is expected to be completed within a six month time frame.