What Happens in Family Development?

1. The family develops a partnership with a family development worker.
2. A family development worker helps the family assess its needs and strengths-an ongoing process.
3. The family sets its own major goal (such as getting off welfare or providing health care for a disabled family member) and smaller goals working toward the major goal, and identifies ideas for reaching them.
4. The family development worker helps the family make a written plan for pursuing goals with some tasks being the responsibility of the family members, and some of the worker's. Accomplishments are celebrated and the plan is continually updated.
5. The family learns and practices skills needed to become self-reliant.
6. The family uses services as stepping stones to reach their goals.
7. The family's sense of responsibility is restored. The family (and each individual within the family) is strengthened by the family development process so they are better able to handle future challenges.

Cost: $1500

The fee includes:
- 90 hours of interactive classroom instruction (including 10 hours of individual portfolio advisement)
- Text: Empowerment Skills for Family Workers
- Credential fee

2019 Class Schedule
9:00 am-4:00 PM

On the following Thursdays:
1/10/19, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11
Exam Date 4/25/2019 *

*Exam date subject to change.

For more information, or to register, please contact:
Lissette D. Colado-FDC Facilitator
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845-421-6211

Strengths-based family support training for frontline family workers
What is the Family Development Credential Program?

The FDC Program at UCONN is a professional development course and credentialing program for frontline family workers to learn and practice skills of strength-based family support with families.

FDC courses are offered to frontline family workers from a wide range of government, private, and not-for-profit agencies as well as business and large corporations.

Family development staff members work with families across the life span including families with young children, teen parents, retired people, people with disabilities, and many other groups.

To earn the FDC, a worker must:

- Complete 90 hours of interactive classroom instruction based on the Empowerment Skills for Family Workers curriculum.
- Prepare a satisfactory Skills Portfolio documenting knowledge and skill with guidance and support of a portfolio advisor.
- Pass a state credentialing exam.

Program History

FDC courses are offered through Interagency partnerships by community-based instructors and portfolio advisors who are trained by their state’s credentialing organization.

The FDC was established in 1996 through an interagency collaboration of fifteen major state agencies and the New York State Council on Children and Families. The New York State Department of State's Community Services Block Grant Program selected Cornell to develop the FDC curriculum and administer the program.

In August 2010, the Family Development Credential Program moved to University of Connecticut’s Center for the Study of Culture Health & Human Development (CHHD), which issues the credential and administratively oversaw the program. In 2014, National FDC joined University of Connecticut’s Department of Applied Health Sciences, where the Family Development Credential is jointly issued by CHHD and the Center for Health & Health Promotion (CEHHP).

FDC Outcomes: What the Research Shows

Research conducted on the outcomes of FDC training revealed that workers:

- Used family development skills in their professional and personal lives.
- ENHANCED skills in helping families develop their own goals of self-reliance.

Agency supervisors reported FDC training:

- INCREASED effectiveness in helping workers work with families.
- IMPROVED communication among workers.

Join the nationwide family development movement...

Currently, the FDC is offered in 18 states.

In New York State, workers are eligible to apply the FDC credential toward college credit and continuing education units.

Praise for the Empowerment Skills for Family Workers curriculum from frontline family worker:

"It helped me remember why I went into this work in the first place!"

"Now, I'm looking for strengths. Last year I never thought about how important that step is when working with families."

"This class should be a prerequisite for every family worker!"