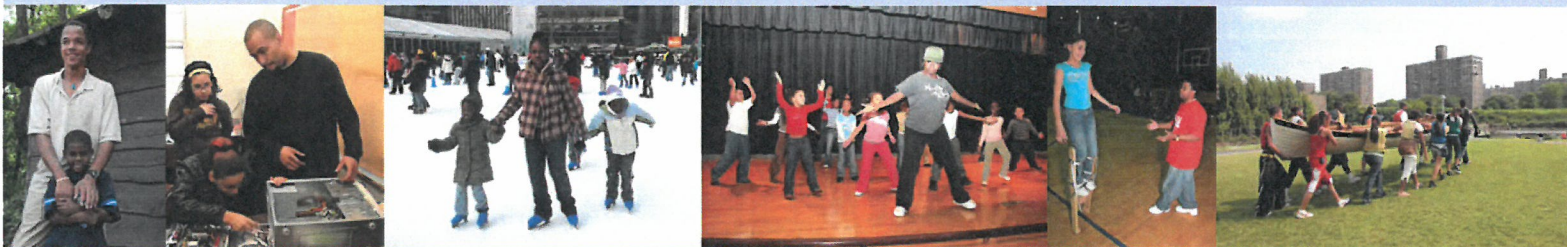


Core Competencies for Youth Work Professionals

- 1** Knowledge of the principles and practices of child and youth development and ability to use this knowledge to achieve the goals of the program.
- 2** Ability to comply with applicable safety and emergency requirements.
- 3** Ability to promote an inclusive, welcoming, and respectful environment that embraces diversity.
- 4** Ability to foster academic and non-academic skills and broaden participant horizons.
- 5** Ability to effectively implement curricula and program activities.
- 6** Ability to promote responsible and healthy decision-making among all participants.
- 7** Ability to develop leadership, team-building and self-advocacy skills among participants.
- 8** Ability to behave professionally.



Definition:

Youth work professionals are individuals who work with or on behalf of youth to facilitate their personal, social and educational development to enable them to gain voice, influence and place in society as they make the transition from dependence to independence. Three assumptions help define the workforce:

- Youth work professionals are employed primarily in non-compulsory educational and developmental settings;
- Youth work professionals work with young people primarily between ages 6 and 18; and
- Youth work professionals, like social workers or nurses, can be employed by a variety of systems and settings.

The complete list of core competencies and indicators is available at www.nyc.gov/dycd

These competencies are designed to be used as a tool to guide the professional development of the youth work professional, NOT as a barrier for entry into the field.