

## Description

This course is designed to help program staff enhance their skill in building Head Start collaborations. Participants who attend this course will enhance their ability to foster successful collaborations and overcome barriers they may encounter. This course is developed to build the family support capacity of Head Start staff. It focuses on the knowledge and skills staff will need to be full collaborative partners in community efforts to help families develop, nurture their children, and experience success. Participants will learn how to work actively with other agencies and community members to improve community conditions, services, and resources for children and families; demonstrate the skills necessary for forming and sustaining collaborative relationships; and participate in strategic planning processes aimed at resolving complex issues.

## Prerequisites

- Head Start Knowledge
- An Understanding of Resource Collaboration

## Who Should Take This Course?

This course is designed for all Head Start Staff. This means all employees should benefit from this course, from Bus Drivers to Directors, are targeted for this training program. Among those most involved are Program Managers, Family Service Staff, Staff working in the areas of Health, Parent Involvement and Education and Staff working in Support Positions.

## Objectives

- ✓ Examine the impact of your values, beliefs and behaviors on the development of supportive relationships with each other and with Head Start families.
- ✓ Help you to show support for each other and for Head Start families through recognizing and reinforcing individual and family strengths, attentive listening, “reaching out” and displaying accepting and caring behaviors.
- ✓ Help staff see themselves together with Head Start families as members of the community who work as a team in resource development.
- ✓ Help you establish collaborative partnerships with each other, Head Start families and resources in the broader community to address recurring concerns of families.
- ✓ Offer you a foundation of knowledge and skills for strengthen Head Start as a supportive community and in becoming a leader of community network.

## Outline

**What is Community**

Defining Community	Exploring the Impact of Community
Appreciating Family Diversity	Learning About Families
Assessing your HS as a Community	Where are we?
Where do we want to be?	Examining Supportive Practices

**Strengthening your Head Start Community**

Discovering your Strengths	Drawing Out Strengths
Offering Support to Families	Showing Support
Working as a Team	Practicing Team Work

**Connecting with the Broader Community**

Turning to Others for Help	Developing Listening Skills
Engaging Families	Encouraging Family Involvement in Community Life

**Strengthening Family Support through Team Planning**

Contributing to Resource Development