

BLOCS Youth Development Certificate

FACT SHEET



BLOCS (Building Louisville's Out of School Time) is a partnership between Metro United Way, Louisville Metro Government, Louisville Alliance for Youth and Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS). BLOCS is sponsoring this continuing education certificate program in partnership with JCTC (Jefferson Community and Technical College).

The trainings offered are based on six Core Competency Skill Areas. The six core competencies and hours needed in each competency are: **Develop Positive Relationships with Youth (12)**, **Involve and Empower Youth (10)**, **Design and Implement Meaningful Programming (12)**, **Promote Wellness and Safety (10)**, **Engage Community in Youth Development Practices (8)** and **Practice Professionalism (8)**.

- Training flyers are announced by email at least twice a month from BLOCS or the Louisville Metro Government Office of Youth Development. If you are not currently receiving this information, please sign up at oydtrainings@louisvilleky.gov.
- Look for the Core Competency Skill Areas on each training flyer to keep track of which hours you still need in certain areas.
- This youth development certificate will consist of sixty seat hours of trainings provided by BLOCS or the Office of Youth Development.
- A seat hour is defined as the amount of time you sit in training. A two-hour training would be considered two seat hours.
- Anyone who works directly with youth in a paid or volunteer capacity is eligible to apply for this certificate program.
- There will be no cost for this program for the first two years.
- Must have a completed application on file to receive credit. If you have not completed an application, blank ones will be available at each training or you may scan and email a completed form to oydtrainings@louisvilleky.gov.
- Must be present at the beginning and stay to the end of each training to receive credit.
- Must sign in prior to training and initial at the end of each training.
- Those unable to stay or arriving late will not receive training credit that day but are still able to attend.

■ Contact the Office of Youth Development if you have questions about trainings at **(502) 574-0854** or oydtrainings@louisvilleky.gov.

PLEASE PLAN TO ARRIVE 15 MINUTES EARLY TO ALLOW TIME FOR PARKING. NO CREDIT RECEIVED FOR LATENESS.

BLOCS Youth Development Certificate

CORE COMPETENCY SKILL AREAS AND INDICATORS



Youth Development Certificate holders will:

1. Develop Positive Relationships with Youth (12 hours)

- Demonstrate positive role modeling attributes
- Communicate effectively, both verbally and nonverbally, with youth
- Interact with youth respectfully
- Recognize and embraces diversity in youth
- Relationships with youth support asset-building
- Provide individual guidance for youth

2. Involve and Empower Youth (10 hours)

- Foster leadership, team-building and self-advocacy skills among youth
- Offer maximum opportunities for youth to voice opinions and express choice
- Recognize and respond to youth's needs and interests
- Understand and respond to the needs of participants to develop positive identities and feelings of self-efficacy
- Facilitate youth participation in problem solving and conflict resolution

3. Design and Implement Meaningful Programming (12 hours)

- Provide activities and opportunities that encourage curiosity, exploration and problem solving appropriate to the developmental levels and learning styles of each youth
- Provide many opportunities for all youth—including those with disabling conditions—to feel effective, experience success and gain positive recognition from others
- Promote creative expression and provide opportunities and support for youth to understand, acquire and use verbal and nonverbal means of communicating thoughts and feelings
- Support development of peer group cohesion and collaborative participation by promoting group work, cooperative learning and community building

4. Promote Wellness and Safety (10 hours)

- Use space, equipment and materials as resources for creating an interesting, secure, enjoyable environment that encourages interaction, exploration, learning and self-management for each child/youth, including those with special needs
- Promote wellness emphasizing healthy bodies, healthy lifestyles, and a healthy environment
- Assure youth feel physically and emotionally safe and part of the group
- Use effective behavioral guidance techniques
- Recognize and report unsafe conditions and inadequate safety procedures
- Be aware of program's policies with regard to risk management
- Know and comply with safety and health requirements of licensing and other relevant authorities, including safety and first aid procedures

5. Engage Community in Youth Development Practices (8 hours)

- Communicate with and engage families and communities
- Create opportunities to invite family members into program and activities
- Develop community partnerships and collaborate with other community agencies to enhance resources for youth
- Connect youth to local community resources

6. Practice Professionalism (8 hours)

- Demonstrate awareness of self as a youth development professional
- Articulate a personal vision of youth development that aligns with the organization's vision, mission and goals
- Seek ongoing professional growth by participating in training and professional development opportunities
- Network with professionals in the field of youth development and other related fields
- Practice appropriate boundaries and limits with youth, volunteers and other professionals
- Encourage continued staff improvement with colleagues