



Opportunity Youth

Summer is a time for many youth to look for employment opportunities. Some are looking for part-time summer jobs, others may have graduated and are looking for their first real job. Either way, many will find the experience challenging. As if completing applications, interviewing, and the hiring process aren't stressful enough, once hired, they will be expected to learn new tasks, follow directions, and get along with coworkers they may not like. All of this to receive a paycheck that will seem underwhelming after they learn the reality of taxes and payroll deductions. Helping youth get started in the workforce requires more than just resume writing. Effective communication and conflict management skills are critical for helping them navigate this new environment and work related stressors. I hope these tips and resources will be helpful to you and the families you serve as you usher the next generation into the workforce.

Best Regards,

Robyn Cenizal, CFLE
Project Director

Tip of the Month

When preparing teens and young adults for the workforce, it is important to remember that they may not have developed the soft skills necessary to be successful. In addition to providing guidance on their day-to-day tasks, here are some tips to get started building their soft skills set:

- Review our online [Conflict Management](#) course and discuss the importance of keeping calm when disagreeing in a professional environment.
- Discuss different communication styles and strategize how to approach them in the workplace. Not sure what the different styles are? Take our free [Communication Skills](#) course.
- Visit [MyMoney.Govs](#) Youth page to access activities designed to educate youth on the importance of managing their finances.

Featured Resources

The Resource Center's [Virtual Library](#) has collected approximately 1200 materials in a variety of formats including fact sheets, research-to-practice briefs, brochures, pamphlets, training resources, program reports or evaluations, and research materials.

Select the links below to view our featured July resources:

- **[Why Marriage and Relationship Education Matters to Youth \(Tip Sheet\)](#)**

This tip sheet discusses how marriage and relationship education can assist youth as they initiate and manage their romantic relationships. It also provides helpful information for safety-net service providers on selecting appropriate programs and resources as well as on engaging youth during the process.

- **[The Economic Value of Opportunity Youth \(Library Resource\)](#)**

Community Solutions released an analysis showing that, in 2011 alone, taxpayers shouldered more than \$93 billion to compensate for lost taxes and direct costs to support the young people disconnected from jobs and school. At least one in six young adults is disconnected from education and work, according to this report. Projections show that, over the lifetime of these young people, taxpayers will assume a \$1.6 trillion burden to meet the increased needs and lost revenue from this group.

- **Key Soft Skills that Foster Youth Workforce Success: Toward a Consensus across Fields (Library Resource)**

This report discusses findings from a study that reviewed 172 resources from around the world to examine the relationship between soft skills and key workforce outcomes, including employment, performance on the job, wages, and entrepreneurial success. Results indicate there are five critical skills most likely to increase odds of success across all outcomes and which employers expect employees to have: social skills; communication; and higher-order thinking skills (including problem solving, critical thinking, and decision-making); supported by the intrapersonal skills of self-control and positive self-concept. Hard work and dependability, responsibility, and self-motivation are also highly valued by employers and supported by a strong base of research evidence, placing them in the top 10 supported skills.

Events

The Resource Center's [Events Calendar](#) offers a listing of Resource Center events and other national, regional, and community-wide events that might be of interest. Upcoming events include:

- **Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) 2016 National Conference in Orange County, CA, August 1-3, 2016**

The 2016 CWLA National Conference is dedicated entirely to the critical topic of substance use and its impact on children, youth, and families involved with child welfare. Substance use has a significant impact on all child welfare practice areas. It is a major reason that children come into the child welfare system and have trouble returning home. The purpose of this conference is to create national awareness through shared knowledge and to promote multidisciplinary collaborative advances in best practices, research, and policy that lead to improving the outcomes and increased well-being for this population of children, youth, and families.

Will you be attending? If so, be sure to come visit our exhibit booth!

- **National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) 2016 Leadership Symposium in New Orleans, LA, July 31-August 3, 2016**

The NCSEA Leadership Symposium will be a vehicle by which the child support community can share and celebrate the application of best practices, partnerships, and innovative thinking within the day to day management and operations of the child support program.

Will you be attending? If so, be sure to come visit our exhibit booth!

Feedback and Technical Assistance

If you have suggestions or wish to speak with a Resource Center staff member, please [contact us](#) and we will be happy to assist you. If you would like to request technical assistance, please submit a [Training and Technical Assistance Request Form](#) and our Technical Assistance Coordinator will contact you.

To learn more about the Resource Center visit us at

www.healthymarriageandfamilies.org

The National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families supports safety-net service providers as they integrate healthy marriage and relationship education skills into service delivery systems as part of a comprehensive, culturally appropriate, family-centered approach designed to promote self-sufficiency.

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