

Institute for Family Connections™

Comprehensive Training for Practitioners Implementing the Family Finding Model

Description: This two-day training is designed to help participants address the need for permanency and lifetime connections for disconnected youth and other individuals who are separated or have lost contact with their families and other natural supports. The Family Finding Model is a structured approach that can be used for disconnected youth in foster care, juvenile justice, mental health, or developmental disability services. The model can also be used with homeless adults and adults with developmental disabilities. This curriculum will help participants learn the tools, strategies, and skills needed to find and engage family members and others to create a lifetime network of support for youth.

Objectives: Participants will learn:

- The critical steps in the Family Finding Model (Preparation and Approval; Discovery; Engagement; Blended Perspective Meeting; Decision-Making Meeting; Evaluation; Follow-up/Supports)
- How to successfully locate, engage, and help the family and natural supports meet the youth's need for permanency and connection
- How to gain commitment from family members and other natural supports to become Lifetime network members
- How to evaluate the plans made with the family to ensure they are safe, realistic, and strong enough to meet the identified needs of the youth
- How to provide preparation and support to the Lifetime network members so that they can ensure the youth has safety, permanency, and well-being

Course Structure: This course is designed as a two-day 13 hour session. A lunch break is provided each day. This course is only offered as an in-person, group training.

Practical Considerations: This course challenges some conventional child welfare practices, but is in alignment with public agency goals and values (youth having permanency, safety, well-being, recovery, inclusion, living at home and in the community).

CEUs: 13 Contact Hours for Social Work CEUs are available.

If you wish to participate in an already-scheduled course, to set up a session of this course for your organization, or if you have further questions, please contact familyfinding@hillside.com