

Institute for Family Connections™

High Level Overview Introduction to Family Finding

Description: This one-day training provides an overview of the Family Finding model. The Family Finding Model is an evidence-informed model 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 introduce participants to the values, 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 Family Finding differs from traditional child welfare approaches
- How Family Finding can be implemented in the participants' work settings
- Tools that can be used to successfully locate, engage, and help the family/natural supports meet the youth's need for permanency and connection
- 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 one-day 6 hour session. A lunch break is provided. This course is only offered in 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: 5.5 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