

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

July 24, 2024

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to invite your agency to enroll your direct service staff and supervisors in our upcoming Strengths-Based Family Workers classes and Leadership classes. These are the classes that have helped staff throughout the county use an approach that supports families in obtaining their goals and creating healthy self-reliance as they increase their interdependence with their communities. Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) has run these programs for 18 years and over those years, they have reinforced a common language and philosophy in our work with families and individuals, across disciplines.

DHS awards credentials to the participants who complete each program:

- The Credential for Strengths-Based Family Workers (SFW), which prepares staff to develop partnerships that promote the use of family development principles and skills
- The Strengths-Based Leadership Certificate (SBL), which provides agency leaders and supervisors with concrete ways of supporting their staff in practicing a strengths-based approach with families

These credentials increasingly are recognized by professionals in the field of human services. Allegheny County leads the state in the number of credentialed workers and leaders, with 1,308 people who have earned a credential, including 272 supervisors and administrators who completed their Leadership Certificates. Many of the agencies with credentialed staff have made SFW a requirement and incorporated the strength-based skills within their agency practices; and some are requiring or preferring candidates with an SFW in their hiring decisions. Credentialed workers have reported greater professional opportunities, with a higher level of satisfaction and confidence in their work.

To learn more about the SFW and SBL trainings, please refer to the enclosed informational materials or contact Eva Bey at (412) 350-5805 or Eva.Bey@alleghenycounty.us I look forward to learning about your experiences as your agency's staff participate in the upcoming classes.

Sincerely,

Erin Dalton
Director

ERIN DALTON, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING + ONE SMITHFIELD STREET + SUITE 400 + PITTSBURGH, PA 15222
PHONE (412) 350-5701 + FAX (412) 350-4004 + EMAIL DHS-Information@AlleghenyCounty.us