

Strengths

Emotional or behavioral skills, competencies, and characteristics that:

- Create a sense of personal accomplishment
- Contribute to satisfying relationships
- Enhance one's ability to deal with stress and adversity
- Promote moral, social, emotional, skill, and other types of development

Why focus on competencies?

A focus on competencies will expand, strengthen, and improve the system's capacity to include the positive elements of a youth, family, or community in a well-balanced assessment and service profile.

Competencies as the cornerstone of the development of integrated strategies combining juvenile justice, substance abuse treatment, and family and community interventions could interrupt the cycle of substance abuse and delinquency.

What *IS* the Youth Competency Assessment?

The Youth Competency Assessment (YCA) is a brief format and process for identifying strengths, competencies, and capabilities that will enable professionals, family members, and community members to build service and case plans that reflect specific pro-social competency development goals across a variety of juvenile justice settings.