

Youth Competency Assessment (YCA)

Supplemental Interview Questions

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is not a structured interview. It is a 20-item guideline for you to use early in your assessment process with youth that will provide you with strength-based information to incorporate into the Case Plan. Research and practice suggest that gathering information about a youth's strengths in the areas of 1) Creating a Healthy Identity, 2) Connecting With Family, Peers, and Community, and 3) Repairing Harm will provide you with needed strengths-based information for the Case Plan.

■ **Section A: Repairing Harm**

Overall purpose of section: What personal strengths do youth have that they can use to make up for past mistakes?

01. Exploring how it feels to help or hurt others
 - Talk about a time you did something for someone else that you felt really good about. Who noticed?
 - How did they respond?
 - Think of something in the past that you did that hurt someone else. How do you feel about that now?
 - What did you do to make it right? If you didn't do anything, what could you have done?
 - Is there anything you could do now?
02. Experiences with apology in personal relationships
 - Describe a time when someone apologized to you for something they did that hurt you. How did that make you feel?
 - How did that change your relationship with that person?
 - Describe the last time you apologized to another person. How did that make you feel?
 - Did it change the way you acted toward the other person?
03. Knowing right from wrong
 - Think about who in your life taught you the most about right and wrong. What are a couple of examples of what that person taught you?
 - Are there other people who have also taught you about right and wrong? Are any of these people in your life right now?
04. Willingness to repair harm from the incident
 - Think about what got you in trouble this last time. Is there anything you've already done to make up for your actions?
 - Do you think there's anything more that you could do?
 - On a scale of 1-5 (1=not at all, 5=very), how willing are you to do anything more?
05. Ability to make safe choices
 - What are ways that you could show people that you'll make safe choices in the future?
 - How would these choices benefit you?

06. Community connections

- Communities are places where people are connected to each other, like a neighborhood, school, or faith-based institution (church, synagogue). What do you like/not like about your community?
- What things can you do in your community that will make it a better place?
- Your recent choices may have affected your community connections—what could help you connect again?
- How can your friends support you in maintaining positive community connections?

■ **Section B: Creating a Healthy Identity**

Overall purpose of section: What kinds of things help youth feel good about themselves and help them succeed?

07. Personal Goals

- What are your goals for yourself?
- What steps are you taking to achieve these goals?
- Is there anything that gets in the way of achieving these goals?

08. Personal Strengths

- What do you think your strengths are? (What are the things you like to do that you feel you are good at?) Name two.
- How can these strengths help you in your future goals?

09. Family Strengths

- What does your family do well?

10. Pride

- What are the things in your life that you are most proud of?

11. Experience Overcoming Challenges

- Describe an experience that you felt was difficult or challenging that you were able to overcome.
- What challenges are you currently working on?

12. Safety

- Describe the people that you feel the most safe with.
- What is it about those people that makes you feel safe?

■ **Section C: Connecting with Family, Peers, and Community**

Overall purpose of section: Are there positive people in youths' lives who can serve as resources for them?

13. Admiration

- Who in your family, neighborhood or school do you see doing good things in the community?
- What kinds of things do they do?
- Who would you like to get to know better who would be a positive influence in your life?

14. Problem-solving
 - Who do you turn to when you have a problem?
 - Describe someone you've known who made poor decisions and then got back on track.
15. Helping others
 - Describe a time when someone helped you or gave you something you needed.
 - Why do you think people do things like that?
16. Family as a resource
 - Think about the people you include in your family.
 - What kinds of things are they good at?
 - Who in your family do you admire the most? Why?
17. Friends as a resource
 - Think about your group of friends. What kinds of things are they good at?
 - Who in your group of friends do you admire the most?
 - Why?
18. School or work as a resource
 - Think about your school or where you work. In those places, what do you do the best?
 - What things take the hardest work?
 - Is there anything that keeps you from reaching your goals?
19. Community as a resource
 - Think about your community. Are there things that need to be fixed?
 - What could you do to help fix them?
 - What have you already done in your community to make it better?
20. Experiences teaching, helping, or leading
 - Describe your experiences being a mentor, teacher, or leader for others.