

Child and Youth Care Credential (CYC)

WHAT

The CYC is a professional youth worker credential that engages relevant direct service experience, completed training, and recommendations from peers to showcase proficiency in the field.

HOW

You will need to complete a proctored test and a packet associated with whichever level you wish to obtain. Your IDOE Specialist can help connect you to a test in your area.

WHY

As IDOE staff work to align quality program standards, establishing a foundation for staff quality will help professionalize the field, strengthen programs, and directly impact outcomes for youth.

Entry Level

Associate Level

Professional Level

MUST HAVE TO QUALIFY:

- ❖ At least one year (2000 hours) documented experience in direct youth care practice
- ❖ Completed approved ethics training
- ❖ Completed training in child guidance or behavior management
- ❖ Completed Entry Level packet
- ❖ For full details, click [here](#).

MUST HAVE TO QUALIFY:

- ❖ At least three years (6000 hours) documented experience in direct youth care practice
- ❖ At least 150 hours of documented training in 5 core competency domains
- ❖ Completed Associate Level packet
- ❖ For full details, click [here](#).

MUST HAVE TO QUALIFY:

- ❖ At least five years (10,000 hours) documented experience in direct youth care practice
- ❖ At least 250 hours of documented training in 5 core competency domains
- ❖ Completed Professional Level packet
- ❖ For full details, click [here](#).

Benefits to program administrators: increased program credibility, larger pool of qualified staff, lower program liability and reduced insurance costs, potential for lower staff turn over

Benefits to direct service staff: increased career flexibility, access to scholarships to make higher education attainable, more opportunities to combine experience/training/education to qualify for advanced positions, tangible acknowledgment of experience in the field

Benefits to youth: access to staff who have broad-based knowledge and skills to provide quality care