

# Credential for Strengths-Based Family Workers (SFW)



*Praise for the Empowerment Skills for Family Workers curriculum from SFW participants:*

“It helped me remember why I went into this work in the first place.”

“I have a renewed attitude toward the families I work with. This course showed me what it’s like to be on the other side of the desk.”

“Now I’m looking for strengths. Last year, I never thought about how important that step is when working with families.”

“I’m more patient and communicate better with families. I look at situations differently now.”

“This class should be a prerequisite for every family worker.”

## Details

Find scheduling, fee, and registration and scholarship information at:

[www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/sfw](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/sfw)

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## DHS is

responsible for providing and administering publicly funded human services to Allegheny County residents.

## DHS Principles

All services will be:

- High quality, comprehensive and accessible.
- Individualized and designed to be respectful of the unique cultural characteristics of each individual and/or community.
- Integrated and offered through a team approach that recognizes the capacity of individuals and families to identify their own strengths, needs and goals; create relationships and natural supports; and take steps necessary to accomplish these goals.

The SFW is a joint project of DHS and Temple University, Harrisburg.

## Funding Acknowledgments

For state and federal funding acknowledgments, please visit the DHS website at

[www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx)

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Allegheny County Department of Human Services

# Credential for Strengths-Based Family Workers (SFW) 2.0

Strengths-based family-support training for frontline family workers...

*Transforming the way agencies work with individuals and families.*



## What is the Credential for Strengths-Based Family Workers?

The Credential for Strengths-Based Family Workers is an enhanced training and credentialing program that ensures family development workers have the basic knowledge, skills and values to facilitate a family's ability to obtain and maintain self-sufficiency. It is offered in Allegheny County through DHS with the credential issued by Temple University, Harrisburg. The credential is nationally recognized.

SFW is ideal for people working with families and individuals in programs related to:

- Family support
- Child welfare
- Education
- Employment and training
- Drug & alcohol prevention & treatment
- Early childhood
- Other direct human service

## What does a worker need to do to receive the SFW credential?

Complete virtual classroom instruction of:

- The Foundations of Strength-Based Practice-Four Courses
- Six Core Content Courses based on Temple University's "Help Giving Cycle" and Motivational Interviewing models.
- Pass a national credentialing examination.
- Complete the SFW Practicum

## SFW Core Competencies:

- Demonstrates professionalism and commitment to ethical practice
- Recognizes strength in diversity and difference: demonstrating sensitivity in practice
- Understands and utilizes the power of clear, non-judgmental communication
- Demonstrates self-care and lifelong learning
- Applies strengths-based principles to practice with families
- Applies strengths-based principles to agency and community system



The SFW Credential is honored by various human service organizations and colleges. After the completion of the course workers receive the SFW Credential and SFW Digital Badge.

## When will the course be offered?

- SFW is offered twice each year in Allegheny County.
- The program schedule is posted here: [www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/sfw](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/sfw)

## What is the cost of the SFW?

- \$575 for program registration, materials, test, practicum and credential fees. All other costs are underwritten by DHS.
- A limited number of partial scholarships are available. Interested parties should submit a completed SFW application for scholarship.

## SFW Outcomes

In research conducted on the outcomes of the SFW training,

### **Workers said:**

- They use family development skills in their professional and personal lives
- They enhanced their skills in helping families develop their own goals of self-reliance
- They increased the ability of families to meet their goals

### **Supervisors reported:**

- Increased effectiveness in helping workers relate to families
- Improved communication among workers and families