

Child Welfare 101 provides comprehensive training and education for professionals working in child welfare agencies, including those in Iowa. The primary goal is to equip child welfare workers with the knowledge and skills required to promote child safety, permanency, and well-being. By achieving the objectives below, professionals entering the field will be better prepared to meet the complex challenges they will encounter while working in child welfare and contribute to positive outcomes for vulnerable children and their families.

Proposed Objectives

1. **Understanding Child Welfare:** Define the purpose and principles of the child welfare system. Explain the key legal and policy frameworks governing child welfare in Iowa and the United States. Describe the roles and responsibilities of child welfare professionals in Iowa.
2. **Child Development and Family Dynamics:** Gain an understanding of child development, including physical, cognitive, and emotional milestones. Explore the impact of family dynamics, trauma, and adversity on child well-being. Learn to recognize signs of child abuse and neglect.
3. **Child Protection and Safety:** Identify the steps involved in assessing and ensuring child safety. Recognize indicators of child abuse and neglect. Learn how to respond to immediate safety concerns and make decisions that prioritize child safety.
4. **Permanency and Family Preservation:** Understand the importance of permanency planning for children at risk or removed from their primary caregivers or biological parents. Explore strategies for family preservation, reunification, and adoption. Collaborate with families, courts, and community resources to create steps to achieve permanency goals.
5. **Legal and Ethical Considerations:** Comprehend the legal framework governing child welfare in Iowa. Learn about court processes, documentation, and the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Uphold ethical standards and practice in a manner consistent with professional values.
6. **Communication, Collaboration, & Resource Networking:** Develop effective communication skills for engaging with children and families. Master the art of active listening, empathy, and conflict resolution. Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams, including caseworkers, therapists, educators, and healthcare professionals. Build a network of community resources to support children and families. Strengthen partnerships with service providers and stakeholders.