



Community Action Opportunities

HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

North Carolina Family Support Credential **Sponsored by: Community Action Opportunities** **Issued by: Duke University**

What Is the Family Support Credential?

The NC Family Support Credential provides frontline workers with new knowledge and skills to help families and individuals become more self-reliant within their communities. The training is skills-based with a field practice component. The comprehensive program focuses on family development from a strengths-based approach. The training includes communication skills, worker self-empowerment, diversity, strengths-based assessments, home visits, facilitation skills and developing community collaborations. The Family Support Credentialing Program is for both professionals and paraprofessionals from a wide range of organizations and government agencies. This approach breaks down stereotypes and fosters an atmosphere of mutual respect among workers who very often serve the same families.

How Can You Earn this Credential?

The curriculum is delivered by community-based Instructors who are certified-trained by Community Action Opportunities, the credentialing organization for North Carolina. You can earn a nationally recognized and respected Family Support Credential that will significantly improve your professional and personal life.

Training – Participate in 90 hours of interactive classroom training based on *Empowerment Skills for Family Workers*; a curriculum developed by Cornell University.

Portfolio Development – Develop a portfolio documenting knowledge and skills with support and feedback from a Portfolio Coach.

Field Work – Work with a Portfolio Coach who will provide you with guidance through the field based skills practice and portfolio development.

Complete the exam – Pass a state examination and submit your portfolio to Community Action Opportunities for approval. Duke University will issue your credential.

What Are Workers Saying?

Workers with Family Support Credentials report that the training validated, challenged, and revised their knowledge and assumptions about family empowerment and family support practice.

- *“I now see families as equals, allowing them to decide what goals to work on instead of telling them what they need”*
- *“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.”*

Cost

The registration fee of \$1450 includes the training, materials and portfolio review, exam scoring, and the credential.

For More Information

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