Child Welfare Education Program
Self Assessment

Please complete the following self-assessment that describes typical situations that caseworkers experience. It is important for those considering a career in child welfare to carefully evaluate their understanding of the context of the work, and whether their values and interests are a match.

An honest self-assessment may help you make an informed decision about whether this work is right for you. Staff retention in child welfare directly affects positive outcomes for children and families.

Before filling out the Application for the Child Welfare Education Partnership, please view the realistic job preview video “It’s not Just a Job – A Realistic Preview of a Career in Child Protective” at this link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ-vXw3-604#page=products

Please complete the following anonymous self-assessment using the scale below. If after careful consideration you believe you are an appropriate fit for child welfare work, we invite you to mail us the Application Packet.

Please read and rate each statement by using this scale below. Thank you.

1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree

1. I have reviewed the Social Service Specialist position descriptions and feel they are a match with my career goals.

2. I am aware that although the work of child welfare caseworkers can be therapeutic in nature, it is not a counseling or therapy role.

3. I understand that a public child welfare position requires prioritizing many unpredictable situations and handling ongoing stress in the midst of often chaotic conditions.

4. I understand the importance of self-care for child welfare caseworkers.
5. I value being non-judgmental and strengths-based in my relationships with children and families who are participating, most often against their personal choice, in the child welfare system.

6. I understand that oftentimes I will be working with people who are from a different cultural background than my own and will need to seek out additional cultural supports.

7. I feel I have a good understanding of the purpose, practice and values of child welfare and successful child welfare caseworkers.

8. I have the ability to handle sensitive situations with patience, sensitivity and professionalism.

9. Given what I know about this profession, I am prepared to make a commitment to working in the field of Child Welfare.

10. As a child welfare professional, I believe I can support families to make positive and long lasting changes for themselves.

11. I thrive in an environment where decision making is a shared experience.

12. I can separate my own professional success from the choices of my clients.

13. I am comfortable speaking in public and would be able to effectively present in court or community settings.

14. I am prepared to do an extensive amount of documentation and collaborating with community partners on behalf of children.

15. I am aware that much of my time will be spent with parents, families and community partners rather than directly with children.

16. I am excited about a career in child welfare.