



## **Foundations in Community Disability Studies**

### **The Foundations of a great career!**

This training program was specifically designed for direct service workers in the evolving field of Community Disability Services. It has been designed to provide a comprehensive orientation to the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed by staff in today's world.

Foundations in Community Disability Studies, was first developed in 2005. It was a collaborative effort of post-secondary, government and service providers, in the province of Alberta. It is copyrighted to the Alberta Council of Disability Services (ACDS) and is coordinated out of their offices in Calgary. Building on 13 years of experience with the Basic Skills Training (BST) program we have kept the same successful Tutor supported in-service training model, but are now offering a more comprehensive work-based learning program. It is practical in focus and designed to teach real skills for the workplace. It has become a benchmark with the industry and is quickly being accepted as required training for all entry level Community Disability Services Workers without previous related training or education. The materials are being refreshed in 2011. It is offered in three delivery modes.

If organizations wish to offer this training in the Face-to-Face delivery mode they must be prepared to train an in-house Tutor. The Online training delivery mode requires an in-house Mentor to ensure the application of the knowledge is achieved. The Challenge Process is designed for those individuals already walking the talk, that are looking for certification or wish to become a Tutor but do not have the required formal diploma. Visit [www.acdsonline.ca](http://www.acdsonline.ca) for more details on curriculum. Our Tutor Training sessions will be advertised on the [www.acds.ca](http://www.acds.ca) website.

### **Face-to-Face Tutor Supported In-House Training:**

This delivery mode requires the support of an in-service trainer. Individual learners are registered through ACDS and manuals are distributed so Tutors can facilitate the learning process for their agency. Tutors are responsible to facilitate the learning, mark the 2 required evaluation components.



## **Foundations in Community Disability Studies**

### **Online Learner Training:**

The Online Foundations is delivered almost strictly via the internet with all of the study materials online, the test taken online, and supported by a Facilitator that is also connected via the internet. There is also a "real world" component to this course, referred to as the Skills Checklist, which must be completed by a Mentor at your organization. It is recommended that Mentors attend the Tutor training.

### **Foundations Challenge Process:**

The Online Foundations Challenge Process is a way for learners that have extensive experience in the field to challenge the Foundations program. Recognized for between 9 -13 credits in Disability Programs at Alberta Colleges, it is a great way to ladder into a college program and advance your career. Learners interested in receiving recognition for prior knowledge and skills will have the option to complete the program through an intensive 6 week challenge and will be certified upon successful completion.

Check out the ACDS website for more information ([www.acdsonline.ca](http://www.acdsonline.ca)) on the curriculum and to access some great resources. For more detail on the process itself call 403 -250-9495 ex 235.