



A PARTNERSHIP OF:
Northern Illinois University
YMCA Alliance of
Metropolitan Chicago
Training, Inc. National
Association

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Aline Click
Project Manager
(815) 753-0673
aclick@niu.edu

or visit
www.criticalchoices.org

Fact Sheet

What is the Critical Choices Project?

Critical Choices is an online workplace success skills course that:

- Is supported by face-to-face counseling and course facilitation;
- Helps to bridge the digital divide by providing basic computer skills through web-based learning and communication;
- Builds a continuing support community and resource bank for participants.

Components

Online course

- Soft skills--critical thinking, time management, listening;
- Workplace success skills--teamwork, observation, finding information;
- Career development skills--self knowledge, occupational information, career planning;
- Technical skills--reading for information, computer basics, Internet basics.

Train the Trainer

To help case managers and course facilitators support the online course by;

- Online and written manuals;
- Addresses issues of staff skill and motivation for online learning.

Online Community Center

- Threaded discussions and chats with current and past participants;
- Online resources such as childcare, meal planning, health, job search;
- Information sharing from Critical Choices course exercises and assignments.

Partners

- Northern Illinois University:
 - eLearning Services
 - Department of Counseling, Adult and Health Education
 - Center for Governmental Studies
- YMCA Alliance of Metropolitan Chicago
- Training Inc., National Association

Funding

Development of this project is provided by:

- \$1.56 million from U.S. Department of Education, Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education, LAAP Grant (Learning Anywhere, Anytime Partnerships);
- Northern Illinois University;
- Private and corporate foundations;
- Course licensing fees from agencies;
- New course development funded by grants and other traditional funding sources.

Delivery:

- Online to each agency and client via computer;
- Web hosting and administration provided by Northern Illinois University

For more information on Critical Choices, visit <http://www.criticalchoices.org>