



# Partnering with Youth and Young Adults

## Module 1 Glossary Terms

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**Ability** is a cognitive or physical capacity to perform complex tasks with a wide range of outcomes.

**Attitude** is the tendency to evaluate a person, situation, or action favorably or unfavorably.

**Competency:** A competency is a human capability composed of knowledge, a skill or ability, and personal characteristics such as attitudes and values.

**Emerging adulthood** is a distinct life stage for young people during late adolescence and their twenties.

**Empowerment:** the process of young people gaining control and mastery of their lives in order to improve equity and quality of life. Jennings and her colleagues (2006) identified six dimensions of critical youth empowerment: 1) a welcoming safe environment; 2) meaningful participation and engagement; 3) equitable power sharing between youth and adults; 4) engagement in critical reflection on interpersonal and sociopolitical processes; 5) participation in sociopolitical processes to effect change; and 6) integrated individual- and community-level empowerment (p. 41).

**Knowledge** is awareness, information, or understanding about concepts, theories, processes, principles, and guidelines acquired by learning or experience that is necessary to perform a task.

**Self-determination:** "A belief that people should be able to arrange their lives in accordance with their own preferences" (Gambrill, 2006, p. 45). Self-determination involves people having real influence over the quality of their lives and involvement in making decisions that affect them.

**Skill** is a cognitive or physical capacity to perform a task with a specific outcome.

**Social identity:** Social identity reflects how people see themselves based on their group memberships, including roles, organizations, and characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity, race, or disability that define them in their society (Anderson & Carter, 2003, p. 153).

**Transitions** are events in a person's life that result in the change of relationships, routines, assumptions and/or roles.

**Value** is an individual's conception of the desirable, which influences the selection of means and ends of the actions to be taken.