

SMI's Training Institutes:

Building your collaboration skill set and team.

About SMI Institutes

School & Main Institutes are designed as 2-3 day statewide, regional, or local training opportunities where participants immerse themselves in intensive courses that hone the skills they need to work effectively with youth and with their organizational partners.

Institute participants choose between 10-15 single or multi-day courses, facilitated by our outstanding faculty. Courses are highly interactive and focused on serious skill-building. Come with current or potential partners and leave with the strong relationship, framework and skills you need to work collaboratively with them.

Methodology & Faculty

- Small class sizes
- A focus on skills – on HOW work gets done, not just awareness
- Interactive methods that help you see different partner perspectives, share ideas, and create solutions with feedback from participants and coaches
- Emphasis on how to create long-lasting community strategies
- Diverse group of instructors from around the country who have years of community development experience at the local and national levels in the public and private sectors
- Faculty who are deeply committed to a collaborative educational experience and who understand adult learning methods
- **Coaching Connection™** – personalized phone and email consultation and follow-up support to help you ground the work of the Institute back home

Because courses cover a variety of carefully selected topics, SMI-designed Institute provide an ideal format for:

- Addressing specific gaps in skill or knowledge of current issues, policy changes, or effective practices.
- Providing training to a wide variety of people involved in your youth effort, from front line staff to partners and leaders.
- Enabling practitioners and policy makers to interact, learn, and plan together.
- Engaging new partners.
- Building a strong team to support the work back home.

Contact us at [617.227.2100](tel:617.227.2100) for more information about sponsoring an SMI-designed [Training Institute](#) for your organization, network, or constituency.



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“The Institute was not like a conference. I hate the conference format where I only get a taste of training. It went deeper and broader than any other training experience I ever had.”

“I have been to trainings on this topic throughout 10 years of employment. The 'light' came on during this Institute!”

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Who Participates

Individuals and teams from all walks of community life: education, business, government, youth services, workforce preparation, community development, and more. School & Main works with Institute sponsors to identify and invite the intended audience. On average, institutes are designed to serve 225-300 people.

Organizing an Institute

School & Main has organized numerous institutes for regions and states around the country. Past hosts and partners include federal and state agencies, foundations, associations, employer groups, colleges, and non-profits like the United Way, Urban League, Boys & Girls Clubs, and others.

We work with local co-sponsors to identify training needs, Institute themes and curriculum, location, and area expertise. We strongly believe the Institute should blend local know-how with that of skilled instructors from around the country. School & Main handles all event coordination, including invitations, registration and course selection, materials, and management on site.

Course Examples

- Developing Powerful Partnerships
- Collaborative Leadership
- Managing the Tough Stuff: Navigating Turf
- Employer Engagement
- Rural Strategies
- Resource Mapping: Leveraging Your Assets
- Challenge or Chance? Working with Out of-School Youth
- Doing More with Less: Coordination is Key
- The Art of Group Facilitation
- Policy to Practice: Using Evaluation Systems to Impact Performance
- Cultivating the Talents of Youth with Disabilities
- Case Management: The Whole Youth and Nothing but the Youth
- The Power of Involving Youth and Families
- Mentoring Matters
- Marketing Workforce Initiatives
- Hire Learning: Creating Project and Work-Based Learning Opportunities

Other Institute Features

- Blue Plate Specials or Tea Times: short informational sessions or effective practice showcases
- Networking Reception
- Keynote Address: local and national views on the policies and issues affecting your work
- Facilitated Team Planning Time
- **Coaching Connection™** – post-institute follow-up support

Call us at **1-800-227-2100** to learn more about Institutes or visit www.schoolandmain.org to see upcoming events.

