

Individual Cultural Competence

Elements of Cultural Competence	Implications for Person-Centered Thinking and Practice
Understand Your Own Culture	• Be attuned to both similarities and differences between and among persons from all cultural groups.
Engage in Self-Assessment	 Examine whether and how your cultural belief systems may positively or negatively influence communication and relationships with the persons to whom you provide services and supports and their families; Consider cultural beliefs and practices associated with the discipline or profession to which you belong.
Acquire Cultural Knowledge and Skills	 Prepare and support staff, at all organizational levels, to communicate and interact effectively with persons and populations from culturally diverse background and with each other. Ensure that person-centered planning methodology (tools and protocols) is adapted to the person and the socio-cultural contexts and community in which the person lives.
View Behavior Within a Cultural Context	• Establish organizational policy, structures, and practices that provide the foundation to integrate culturally competent and person-centered practices; and ensure staff acceptance and adherence accordingly.



Organizational Cultural Competence

Elements of Cultural Competence	Implications for Person-Centered Thinking and Practice
Value Diversity	 Implement organizational policy and practices that acknowledge and are responsive to the diversity of persons and populations served. Recruit, retain, and support diverse staff including those representatives of the persons and populations served.
Conduct Organizational Assessment	 Implement assessment processes to examine the extent to which culturally competent and person-centered practices are in alignment. Elicit the perspectives and experiences of persons (and their families) who receive services and supports in these processes.
Manage the Dynamics of Difference	 Prepare and support staff, at all organizational levels, to communicate and interact effectively with persons and populations from culturally diverse background and with each other. Ensure that person-centered planning methodology (tools and protocols) is adapted to the person and the socio-cultural contexts and community in which the person lives.
Embed Cultural Knowledge	• Establish organizational policy, structures, and practices that provide the foundation to integrate culturally competent and person-centered practices; and ensure staff acceptance and adherence accordingly.
Adapt to Context of Communities Served	 Keep abreast of the demographic make-up of populations residing in the area Systematically review the demographics of persons receiving and/or in need of physical or mental health, aging, or other social services and supports

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First glance: A cultural competence and person-centered thinking and practice crosswalk. Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities 3300 Whitehaven Street, N.W., Suite 3300 Washington, DC 20007