

Competency Development

Instructions:

A competency development discussion is intended to give you and your employees the opportunity to discuss critical competencies, examine opportunities for them to leverage strengths, and explore opportunities to develop their weaker competencies. A competency is defined as the combination of the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for successful job performance.

Use the information below to help prepare for and guide the development discussion.

As you progress through each of the steps below, keep in mind how each employees' values, job goals, and career aspirations can be achieved through better use of his or her strengths and managing development needs.

Step 1: Understand the Important Competencies

- Discuss which competencies you and your employee consider to be most important. Explore why together.
- Consider utilizing the [Competency Self-Assessment Tool](#) for each competency to determine your employee's current competency demonstration.

Step 2: Identified Strengths

- Identify the competencies you and your employee agree are strengths.
- Discuss why (i.e. share examples) you both believe the identified competencies are strengths.
- Brainstorm development activities for these competencies. Include these activities in the *Activity* section of your employee's Competency Development Worksheet.

Step 3: Determine Development Needs

- Agree upon the competencies that you and your employee have identified as needing development or improvement.
- Discuss with your employee how strengthening and better applying these competencies can help him or her and the department in achieving its goals.
- Brainstorm development activities for these competencies. Include these activities in the *Activity* section of your employee's Competency Development Worksheet.

Step 4: Define Next Steps and Action Plan

- Discuss the support your employee may need from others to achieve his or her development activities.
- Instruct your employee to finalize his or her own Competency Development Worksheet after meeting with you.
- Ask your employee to set a time and date for when you will meet again to discuss his or her final development action plan and how you will collaboratively move forward.
- Work collaboratively toward achieving the identified development activities within the agreed-upon timeframes.

Competency Development Worksheet

Instructions:

1. Select the competencies that need to be strengthened and developed.
2. Select competencies consistent with your job goals, values, and future career aspirations.
3. Consider the mission of your agency or your department's strategic goals when identifying development activities (refer to the *Ideas for Strengthening Competencies* page for additional insights).

Identified Competency (#1): _____

Competency is a: Strength _____ Development Need _____

Development Goal: (i.e., What will success look like for you?)

Development Activities: Consider activities that will help you gain knowledge, strengthen your competencies, apply knowledge on the job, or provide opportunities to learn from others in support of your stated Development Goal.

Activities:

1.

2.

3.

Start Date:

1.

2.

3.

Support Needed: What support do you need and from whom (e.g., colleagues, coaches, supervisor, training, etc.)?

Competency Development Worksheet

Identified Competency (#2): _____	
Competency is a: Strength _____ Development Need _____	
Development Goal: (i.e., What will success look like for you?) 	
Development Activities: Consider activities that will help you gain knowledge, strengthen your competencies, apply knowledge on the job, or provide opportunities to learn from others in support of your stated Development Goal.	
Activities: 1. 2. 3.	Start Date: 1. 2. 3.
Support Needed: What support do you need and from whom (e.g., colleagues, coaches, supervisor, training, etc.)? 	

Competency Development Worksheet

Identified Competency (#3): _____	
Competency is a: Strength _____ Development Need _____	
Development Goal: (i.e., What will success look like for you?) 	
Development Activities: Consider activities that will help you gain knowledge, strengthen your competencies, apply knowledge on the job, or provide opportunities to learn from others in support of your stated Development Goal.	
Activities: 1. 2. 3.	Start Date: 1. 2. 3.
Support Needed: What support do you need and from whom (e.g., colleagues, coaches, supervisor, training, etc.)? 	

Ideas for Strengthening Competencies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for a higher level of exposure and/or responsibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate or assist as a subject matter expert on a project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out ways to apply your strengths in a different or broader context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask to be assigned to a visible project or take on stretch assignments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach or mentor a colleague. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try not to overuse strength.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop your skill mastery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become more agile in demonstrating your competencies or with other competencies you want to strengthen.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer to assist a co-worker with a major assignment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner or team up with others who have the same strength.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate a class or teach a workshop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read books that challenge you.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use technology to your advantage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider every circumstance as a learning opportunity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join a professional organization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer within your community.