

Training for Enlarging the Role of Social Workers in Formulating Policy Process: "The Socio-Economic Stage"

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This article describes a policy-practice training program for social workers that took place in the first half of 2009 in Haifa, entitled **The Socio-Economic Stage**. The program sought to increase participant involvement in forming public policy by employing policy activities anchored in social justice, and integrated into their daily work. In order to achieve this goal, the training was designed to increase participant knowledge, help the participants shape their professional ideology as agents of social change and increase their awareness, and develop a critical approach towards public policy. It also enabled participants to engage in policy-practice via the organizations in which they are active.

The article includes two main sections: the first section describes the training – the background leading to its development, its rationale, expected outcomes, the training plan and main components and a description of the participant audience. This section also describes participant engagement in policy activities and initial findings from the evaluation process that took place during the program. The second section is dedicated to a discussion on achieving the expected results from the training program and the factors that led to advancing or impeding achievement of these results. This section includes lessons learned and recommendations for similar activities in the future.

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