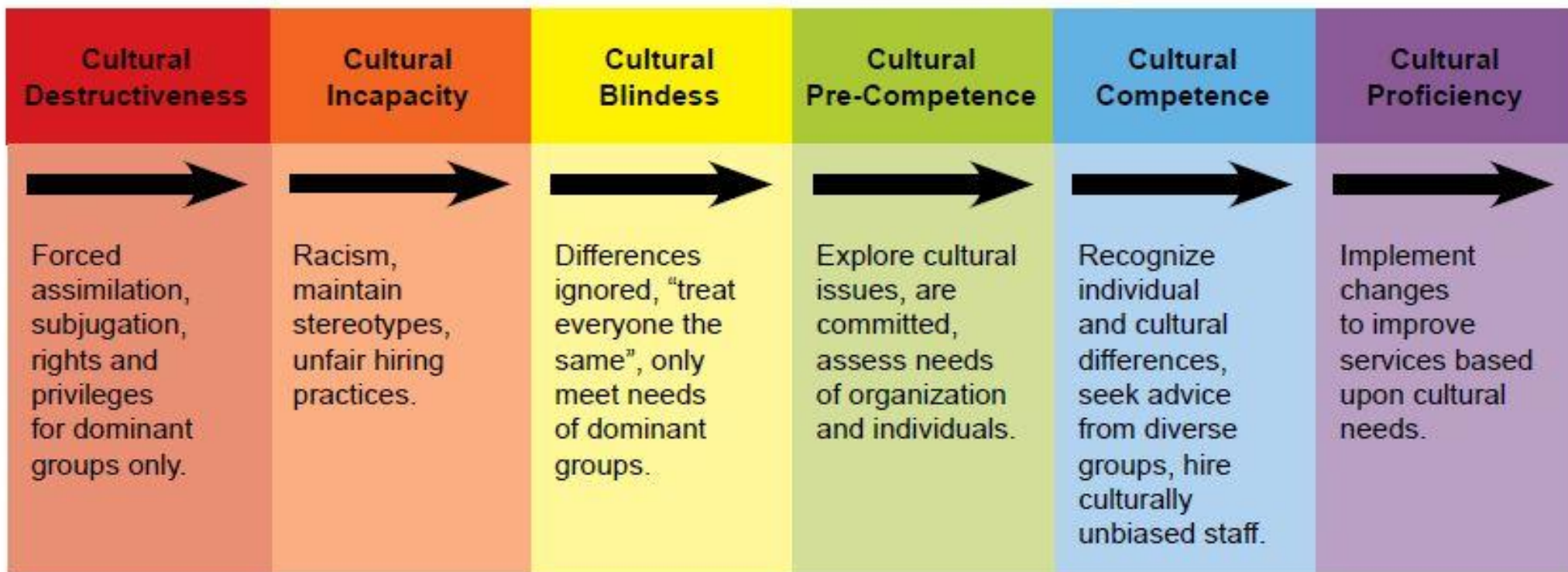


Continuum of Cultural Competency



Cultural competence is a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency, or among professionals and enable that system, agency, or those professionals to work effectively in cross-cultural situations.

Cultural competence may be viewed as a goal towards which agencies can strive. Becoming culturally competent is a developmental process. No matter how proficient an agency may become, there will always be room for growth.

To better understand where one is in the process of becoming more culturally competent, it is useful to think of the possible ways of responding to cultural differences. It is important for an agency to internally assess its level of cultural competence. The continuum of cultural competency chart can help to gage where one is in the process of becoming more culturally competent.

"Stages of Cultural Competence" T. Cross et al. *Towards a Culturally Competent System of Care* Washington, DC: Georgetown U., 1989