



Youth Peer Advocate

Part-time (20-25 hours per week) some nights and weekends may be required,
Hourly position \$16 - \$20 depending on experience.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Youth Peer Advocate (YPA) is a young adult who self-identifies as having experience with social, emotional, or behavioral health challenges as a young person, and/or has received services in any one of the child-serving systems (juvenile justice, foster care, special education, or addiction recovery).

YPAs use their "lived experience" to promote resiliency, recovery, wellness, and self-efficacy in young people, and support the practice of youth-guided and family-driven approaches.

The Youth Peer Advocate position is community-based. Services are delivered in a variety of settings that meet the young person's individual needs and schedule.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Establish structured, strength-based, supportive relationships with youth and their families for the benefit of the young person. Meet youth in the office, at home or in the community as requested;
- Connect youth to community resources and services;
- Provide mutual support, hope, reassurance and advocacy which includes sharing one's own "personal recovery/resiliency story" as appropriate;
- Facilitate meetings as needed and serve as an advocate and mentor;
- Assist in navigating the service system, including engagement and bridging during transitions in care and developing skills to independently navigate services;
- Using an electronic database, document demographic data on all individuals seen, track all services provided and monitor progress towards identified goals;
- Complete all documentation in compliance with agency policy and funding regulations in a timely fashion. This includes, but is not limited to case records, time sheets, mileage forms and expense reports;
- Participate in all agency quality improvement activities.



Youth Peer Advocate

MUST-HAVE:

- High school diploma plus two years' experience working directly with children and youth.
- Be between the ages of 21 and 26 years old.
- Lived-experience with social, emotional, or behavioral health challenges as a young person, and/or have received services in any one of the child-serving systems (juvenile justice, foster care, special education, or addiction recovery).
- Good verbal, written and computer skills.
- Be able to complete the Youth Peer Advocate certification process within one year of hire.
- Valid NYS driver's license, safe driving history, and access to a vehicle that is properly insured and registered in accordance with NYS DMV regulations.
- Satisfactory clearances from the Child Abuse Registry and Criminal History Information Tracking System.
- Ability to work with diverse social, cultural, and economic groups; bilingual candidates encouraged.
- Flexible schedule.

WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE:

- Familiarity with Westchester County.
- Bachelor's degree.
- Experience leading groups.
- Experience using an electronic health record or a similar database.