



Position Title: Community Connections Specialist

Reports to: Youth Programs Supervisor

Summary of Position: Community Connections Youth Project is designed to provide young adults transitioning out of the child welfare system with peer-supported case management to limit barriers to success and increase positive community integration. Community Connections Specialists work directly with young adults to determine goals for a successful adulthood, including educational, occupational, health care, and social connection goals. Because strong supports are crucial for healthy transitions, Community Connections Specialist will also work with young adults to find natural supports that can help them stabilize and be successful. Overall, the goal of the Community Connections Specialist is to make sure that no young person that comes into contact with our agency feels alone or unsupported. All Specialists must be alumni of the foster care system and will go above and beyond, continuing to help our clients accomplish the goals they identify.

Responsibilities:

- As new CCYP cases are assigned, set initial meetings, conduct assessments and complete Client Narratives.
- Manage caseloads as assigned.
- Create Action Plans for each identified CCYP domain: Housing, Education, Transportation, Employment, Physical and Mental Health, Finances, Legal and Social Supports.
- Maintain professional documentation, file maintenance, and case closure procedures.
- Assist in collecting information from caregivers and case managers to expand clients' support system and family connections.
- Provide crisis prevention support as available/applicable
- Meet at least monthly with clients to track progress towards goal completion
- Maintain regular communication and contact with clients and support teams
- Work collaboratively with other FosterAdopt Connect departments as needed to provide quality services to clients

Minimum Requirements:

- **Must have spent part or most of childhood in foster care, kinship care, relative care, or have been adopted; must be able demonstrate proof of this background.**
- Must be at least 21 years old.
- Have a valid driver's license, car insurance and reliable transportation.
- Bachelor's degree in social services or a related field preferred.
- Have a flexible schedule.

Preferred Skills/Qualifications:

- Good verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong organizational and time management skills.
- Capable of working in large teams and independently.
- Conflict resolution and negotiation experience.
- Basic knowledge of Microsoft Office programs.

Additional skills/competencies necessary to carry out job functions to the service population's culture and socioeconomic characteristics:

- Obtain a cultural awareness that results in a clear understanding of the worldview that directs individual interactions with people of other backgrounds.
- Ability to identify needs unique to various diverse populations including those of different gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic group, race, and physical or mental capacity and address those needs with community resource referrals.
- Locate appropriate resources to communicate with limited-English-proficient individuals or those with hearing impairment.
- Assist other professionals and team members in understanding the unique needs/characteristics of diverse populations.

Working Conditions:

- In-office and fieldwork required including visits to neighborhoods of various socio-economic status. The Specialist must be able to adapt to new situations with ease.
- Frequent travel throughout the Kansas City metro area.
- Some infrequent travel outside the service area may be required to pursue resource and permanency options.