

Asst. Youth and Family Engagement Specialist (P/T - Suffolk County based)

Organizational Profile:

S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc. is a youth, family, and community development organization that specializes in youth, gang and gun violence prevention and Intervention. Our mission is to increase safety and sense of community belonging to youth and families across Long Island and the surrounding region. To accomplish this, we provide alternatives to high risk behaviors for our youth and empower families, residents and stakeholders to implement and endorse socially responsible initiatives in their communities.

Program Description: C.H.A.N.G.E. program

Our prevention/intervention program focuses on providing youth in grades 3 through 8 with the education, skills, and support they need to improve the youth's school performance and behavior in school and at home and reduce the risks of future problem behaviors such as dropping out of school, violence and gang involvement. Our program includes: Mental health services for the youth and their family, specialized services to address chronic trauma, case management services, and psychoeducational and after school groups with selected students in a school setting. We supplement the program with "life changing" experiences, or activities that can trigger a commitment to change.

Position Description: Highly motivated, independent and creative individual who is committed to making a difference in the lives of young people and empowering them to make positive life choices. The ideal candidate will have a passion for working with a population that consists primarily of at-risk- youth in grades 3 through 8, as well as their families. The assistant specialist will be responsible for facilitating workshops and providing counseling and supportive services to youth and their families, as well as support the academic and socio-emotional progress of the youth in a school-based setting.

All staff is expected to represent S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc. in a professional manner, act in a manner consistent with the mission and values of S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc. and help realize the organization's mission.

Asst. Specialist's responsibilities will include working in conjunction with the lead Specialist to:

- Manage a caseload of youth and families in our S.T.R.O.N.G. CHANGE program as assigned.
- Co-facilitate and/or facilitate psychoeducational group sessions with students in school and after-school as needed.
- Conduct assessments and surveys with participants, parent/caregiver and school administrators, create service plans and provide counseling and case management support services to youth and families.
- Provide support and assistance to lead specialist in compliance with attendance to treatment and follow up on participants and their families.
- Design and implement community-awareness projects and "life changing" experiences/activities to promote engagement and motivate change within school community, as well as out.
- Collect school records such as progress reports, report cards, attendance and disciplinary records on a scheduled basis.
- Maintain detailed records and ensure that each chart is in reasonable order at all.
- Create and consistently update a community resource directory to be accessed by youth and parents.
- Participate in weekly team meetings with Lead Specialist and organizational staff meetings as needed.
- Review treatment needs and goals as needed throughout the duration of treatment.
- Participate in and represent S.T.R.O.N.G. at various school sponsored activities throughout the school year.
- Perform other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

Demonstrate an understanding of the challenges facing youth and exhibits an empathetic attitude towards youth considering a variety of underlying issues, such as low socioeconomic status, presence of gangs in the neighborhood, availability of drugs and firearms in the neighborhood, feeling unsafe in neighborhood; high crime, conflict with social institutions, and family disorganization.

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Education or related field from an accredited college or university is required.
- 1-2 years' experience providing counseling and case management services to youth and families, preferably at-risk and/or gang involved youth populations.
- Knowledge of relevant community resources and must be current on news impacting communities we serve.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team setting.
 - *Must be able to relate to youth and maintain professional boundaries.*
- Strong written/verbal communication skills required.
- Knowledge of adolescent development and family dynamics and the ability to connect participants to appropriate resources.
- Ability to stay organized, assess priorities, take initiative, handle multiple assignments, meet deadline and develop solutions to problems with limited direct supervision is a must.
- Attention to detail, ability to work under pressure.
- Demonstrate comfort in interacting with community residents, business leaders, politicians, and community activists.
- A willingness to "go above and beyond" to ensure the success of our youth, families and programs.
- Commitment to excellence and a willingness to learn.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of records and information.
- Must Pass Criminal Background Check.
- Demonstrated computer proficiency.
- A valid NYS Driver's License and access to a motor vehicle is required.

Program Location: Suffolk County, New York (Bellport & Wyandanch)

Days & Hours: 24-28 hours a week. Open to flexible days and varied hours. Evenings and weekends as needed. Will be discussed during interview.

Salary: \$20-\$22/hr. 401(K) program is available and paid holidays.

All qualified applicants, please send cover letter, resume, and references to info@strongyouth.com

Include in subject line STRONG Youth – Asst. Youth and Family Engagement Specialist - Suffolk

Visit our website at www.strongyouth.com

S.T.R.O.N.G. YOUTH, INC., IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER