

Youth and Family Engagement Specialist (Elementary School Specialist)

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 stake holders to implement and endorse socially responsible initiatives in their communities.

Program Description: S.T.R.O.N.G. Chapter

Our Chapter program is a school based program that focuses on violence prevention. It allows “youth who are at risk of being failed by one or more adults or adult-driven system or institutions”¹ the opportunity to challenge the myths and beliefs regarding negative behavior and the criminal lifestyle while at the same time providing these youth and their families’ positive alternatives. Chapter counselors seek to reconnect the most estranged students and their families back to their school building and their community through group sessions, individual sessions, linkage to resources, parent outreach, and engaging events within the school and community.

Position Description: Highly motivated, independent and creative Engagement Specialist wanted to work with "at-risk" students and their families supporting student’s academic and social-emotional progress. The Engagement Specialists will support the Pupil Personnel Services Department within each school by serving as a bridge between the parents, teachers, and administration.

Counselor responsibilities will include:

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.

School based Engagement:

- Manage a case load of students referred by school administration, guidance counselors, and social workers.
- Facilitate weekly psychoeducational group sessions with students.
- Coordinate after school activities.
- Promote attendance and participation in school events such as parent-teacher conferences, festivities and celebrations, forums, etc.
- Participate in bi-weekly coordination meetings and social work supervision sessions with school social worker.
- Utilize evaluative tools to monitor student’s attendance and socio-emotional and behavioral progress as well as surveys with school personnel and families.
- Participate in and represent S.T.R.O.N.G. at various school sponsored activities and community events throughout the school year.

Individual/Family engagement:

- The majority of the Engagement Specialist’s time will be spent connecting with students and their families in the home setting.
- Conduct intake assessments and exit interviews with each student and their caregiver.

¹ (<http://www.cyc-net.org/today2001/today010824.html>)

- Provide brief counseling sessions to students and their families as it pertains to violence prevention, truancy, specific behavioral issues and treatment goals identified during assessment.
- Conduct family outreach and education through phone calls, home visits and family sessions, as needed.
- Offer referrals to community resources, which may include school personnel, for more intensive counseling services and/or additional services for students and their families, as needed.

Miscellaneous responsibilities:

- Maintain proper documentation of assessments, interactions, progress and work plans.
- Submit required paperwork in a timely manner.
- Participate in organizational staff meetings and treatment coordination meetings with team members.
- 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 highly preferred.
- One year of prior counseling experience with youth and families and group facilitation required.
- Previous experience working with "at-risk" youth using a positive youth-development model preferred.
- 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.*
- Ability to stay organized, assess priorities, take initiative, handle multiple assignments, meet deadlines to develop solutions to problems with limited direct supervision is a must.
- Demonstrate comfort in interacting with school administration and personnel, parents and community residents.
- 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.
- Bilingual in Spanish helpful.
- Demonstrated computer proficiency.
- A valid NYS Driver's License and access to a motor vehicle is preferred.

Program Location: Nassau County, New York

Note: This position runs through the end of the school year (June 30, 2017) and resumes in Sept.

Days & Hours: 24-28 hours a week. Combination of day and early evening hours. Weekends as needed. Will be discussed further during interview.

Salary: \$22-24/hr. Salary commensurate with education and experience. 401(K) program benefits are available and paid holidays.

***All qualified applicants, please send cover letter, resume, and references to info@strongyouth.com
Include in subject line STRONG Youth – Youth and Family Engagement Specialist (Elementary)***

Visit our website at www.strongyouth.com

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