

Part Time Violence Intervention Counselor/Outreach Worker

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: S.T.R.O.N.G. University

Our intervention program focuses on providing juveniles involved in the criminal justice system with the education, skills, and support they need to complete legal requirements and engage in sustainable life change to reduce their risk for re-incarceration. Our program includes: Mental health services for the youth and their family, specialized services to address chronic trauma, case management services, psychoeducational and Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) group, mentoring and experiential experiences, and referral for substance abuse treatment as needed. We supplement the program with "life changing" experiences, or activities that can trigger a commitment to change.

Position Description: Highly motivated, independent and creative Worker wanted to work with "at-risk" students in a community-based setting.

Intervention Counselors/Outreach workers act as mentors to a caseload of participants who are at high risk for being a victim or perpetrator of a crime and/or violence in their community. Counselors/Workers see each client multiple times per week, conveying a message of rejecting the use of violence, and referring them to our case manager and/or social worker to obtain needed services such as mental health counseling, job training and drug abuse counseling.

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.

- Manage a case load youth in our intervention program as assigned ensuring that each case is moving along the process of change
- Conduct initial bio-psychosocial assessments on participants and complete the service plan with jointly established goals.
- Maintain detailed records for every interaction with and about the youth and ensure that each chart is in reasonable order at all times.
- Conduct weekly psychoeducational and/ or MRT group sessions as assigned using the pre-determined curriculum as the basis.
- Support each youth's change process through referral for additional in house services with our social worker and case manager.
- Engage each youth in case load throughout the week through individual counseling sessions, home visits, telephone calls, school visits or extemporaneous outings to promote engagement and motivate towards change.
- Conduct outreach to the community (individually and as a team member) to build strong relationships with youth, residents, businesses, and community groups.
- Be the leads in working with the Intervention team to design and implement community-awareness projects and "life changing" experiences/activities to promote engagement and motivate change.
- 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.

- Minimum of an Associate's degree in Social Work, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Education or related field from an accredited college or university is *preferred*.
- One year of prior counseling experience and experience developing and facilitating educational workshops (group work) is 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, and meet deadlines is a must.
- 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.
- Knowledge of relevant community resources and must be current on news impacting communities we serve.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of records and information
- A valid NYS Driver's License and access to a motor vehicle is preferred.

- ***Individuals with prior involvement with the criminal justice system (with strict exception of sexually based crimes) and/or gang affiliation highly encouraged to apply.***

Program Location: Nassau County, New York

Days & Hours: Mixed day and night hours required. Weekends as needed. Will be discussed during interview.

Salary: This is a part-time position. \$18-20 an hour, approximately 21-25 hours a week.
Salary commensurate with experience. 401(K) program benefits are available and paid holidays (after 90 day probationary period).

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

Include in subject line STRONG Youth – Intervention Counselor/outreach worker.

Visit our website at www.strongyouth.com

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