

Community Youth Services is recruiting for a full-time Youth Partner / Peer Counselor for its Transitional Age Youth program. This position will be based in the Olympia office (Thurston County), but will need to occasionally work in the Shelton office (Mason County). Peer counselors are persons in recovery from mental illnesses who can effectively support clients with severe and persistent mental illnesses. We are seeking a peer counselor whose recovery is well established and who can provide valuable insights from their personal experience.

The Youth Partner position is a peer counselor that provides home and community-based services to young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in Thurston and Mason counties. They mentor youth that are learning to take on adult roles successfully by walking youth through those experiences and supporting them in a strength-based way through challenges they may face. The Youth Partner shares their own experiences from their journey towards recovery with participants in order to instill a sense of hope and empowerment. They also are tasked with engaging participants in services throughout treatment, doing outreach to new participants and those that have disengaged from services.

Community Youth Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in its workplace. Applicants are considered for positions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital or veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other basis prohibited by federal, state and local laws.

Candidates are required to obtain and maintain both certified peer counselor and Agency Affiliated Counselor licenses.

\$15.23

To Apply

To be considered for this position, please submit a resume OR CYS employment application to HR@CommunityYouthServices.org A cover letter which includes lived experience is required.

The CYS Employment Application can be found on our website -

<http://www.communityyouthservices.org/employment.shtml>

There are two versions on our website – a fillable Word version and a printable pdf version. You can submit either one.

Please reference TAY Youth Partner in the email subject line.

If you only submit a resume now, an application will be requested during the recruiting process. For positions that require driving, a driver's abstract will also be requested during the recruiting process.

Our benefit package can be found on our website –

<http://www.communityyouthservices.org/employment.shtml>

** No phone calls please **

POSITION QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Associate Degree with two (2) years of experience working with at-risk youth **OR** a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Social Work, Social Science or other related field.
2. Be a person with **lived experience** as a participant in Children's Mental Health Services*

3. Requires Washington State Certification as a Peer Counselor consistent with WAC 388-865-0107 or the ability to obtain certification prior to start date. Certification includes completion of a specialized 40-hour training provided or contracted by the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) or their designee and the successful passing of an examination administered by the DBHR or an authorized contractor. An approval letter will be issued by DBHR once all requirements have been satisfactorily met.
4. Requires credentialing as an Agency Affiliated Counselor through the Department of Health upon hire.
5. Experience working with youth in the community in a teaching/coaching, advocacy and mentoring role while maintaining strong professional boundaries with participants.
6. Experience with multiple systems including: Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, Schools, the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) community and natural supports for families, etc.
7. Experience and/or knowledge of cultural issues related to marginalized youth and young adults and alignment with the principals of Positive Youth Development and Wraparound. Able to maintain a non-judgmental attitude.
8. Demonstrate leadership experience and diplomacy in resolving conflicts and integrating divergent perspectives.
9. Proficiency with Microsoft Office with the technical skills to efficiently use MS Word and Outlook, the internet and the intranet is also required.

AGENCY QUALIFICATIONS:

1. The ability to pass an extensive background check with no history of conviction or perpetration of child abuse or physical harm to another person,
2. Professional and personal conduct that maintains a personal and professional background so that criminal history remains free from unlawful conduct.
3. A valid Washington State Driver License with a three-year good driving record. The ability to pass and maintain a clean driving records check. Professional or personal conduct that results in a restricted or denied driving status could result in termination of employment.
4. Proof of personal auto insurance levels at or above a \$100,000 combined single limit must be provided once offer of employment is accepted,
5. A sensitivity and responsiveness to the cultural differences in the organization's employment and service population,
6. Must possess, or obtain within 30 days of employment CPR/1st Aid/Bloodborne Pathogen certification, and
7. Strong interpersonal skills, including the ability to work as part of a team.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATED TASKS:

A. Program Responsibilities

1. Uses own lived experience to provide hope and peer support to other youth experiencing similar challenges, helping youth to engage in their treatment.
2. Assists youth in connecting to community resources and natural supports

3. Provides coaching/teaching to youth to promote skill-development as identified in their Individual Service Plan/Wraparound Plan, in order to successfully transition to adult roles and achieve stability.
4. Works closely with Facilitator and Therapist as a member of the WISe team to serve and provide intensive mental health and care coordination services to youth who are in WISe
5. Coaches/Supports and empowers youth to gain the knowledge and skills to be able to drive their own treatment and advocate for themselves, so that their voice is heard and their individual needs are being addressed and met.
6. Assists youth in developing community and natural supports that will provide ongoing support when formalized TAY services have ended.