



JOP OPENING

Title: Best Start for Kids Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention
Department: Homeless Services
Classification: 40 hours/week, flexible schedule with some weekends & evenings
Reports to: Support Services Program Manager

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM:

Best Starts for Kids (BSK) Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention (YFHPI) is an initiative to improve the health and well-being of King County by investing in prevention and early intervention for children, youth, families and communities. YFHPI is intended to prevent and divert children and youth and their families from becoming homeless. YFHPI is designed to reduce the disproportionate representation of people of color who enter homelessness at a rate significantly greater than the general population. Additionally, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) youth represent 20% of youth who are homeless as compared to 4% of the general population. King County has also identified disproportionate representations of homelessness in geographically isolated areas throughout King County.

King County's BSK YFHPI is based on the highly successful Domestic Violence Housing First Initiative pilot program. Similar to the DVHF pilot, YFHPI will model client-centered and progressive case management with flexible funding assistance to immediately address the issue placing the household at imminent risk.

This position is to hire the Case Manager/ Client Advocate that will provide ongoing assistance by working with the client to help identify his/her needs and next steps to becoming more stable. Case Management support can be either narrow and temporary or longer term in order to meet the true needs of the program participants. The Case Manager / Client Advocate will be one of twenty-seven individuals hired to fill this position countywide. All Case Manager / Client Advocates hired for this program will work as a team ensuring the highest probability that households at imminent risk of homelessness will remain housed.

Case Manager / Client Advocates must possess high levels of cultural competency and/or sensitivity to ensure the program's goals of decreasing homelessness for households disproportionately represented in the homeless system are met.

Case Manager / Client Advocates hired under this program must be willing to provide services whenever and wherever the household needs them to be provided.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Housing Stability

1. Provide case management services that are responsive to the household's immediate needs.
2. Support participants in maintaining current housing and/or stabilizing in place.
3. Help family's access resources for housing stability assistance (i.e. furniture procurement, utility assistance, etc.).
4. Work with landlords to mitigate risks of displacement and ensure housing remains stable.
5. Provide mobile advocacy and community engagement as needed.
6. Work with and accept referrals from other BSK Initiative partners.
7. Track expenditures to stay within budget.
8. Participate in monthly learning circles provided by King County.
9. Participate in all-staff training sessions; attend agency/staff meetings.
10. Enter client-level data into the County's prevention database system.

Community Advocacy

1. Proven ability to relate effectively and respectfully with people from diverse backgrounds and to promote a culturally diverse environment.
2. Coordinate connection with other culturally appropriate services and referrals as needed.
3. Coordinate interpreter supports as needed.

OTHER FUNCTIONS:

- Assist supervisor and other management with program needs as assigned.
- Attend staff meetings, trainings, orientation sessions, and supervisions as requested.

EDUCATION and EXPERIENCE:

- B.A. in social services or related field, education can be substituted with experience.
- Bilingual or multi-lingual preferred.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Strong oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to complete tasks in a timely manner with minimal supervision.
- Sensitivity to the needs of agency clients and ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Ability to make independent decisions in emergencies as well as in daily situations.
- Ability to work independently and as part of team to deliver services.
- Computer literacy; functional ability with Word, Excel and the internet.
- Knowledge of human service delivery systems and systems advocacy.
- Experience, ability and willingness to work as a team with diversified staff, volunteers and constituents.

REQUIRED LICENSES, CERTIFICATES OR KNOWLEDGE:

- Current Washington State Driver's License and proof of valid insurance
- Proof of Negative TB test within 30 days of hire

HOURS & COMPENSATION: This is a full-time hourly position.

TO APPLY: Applicants should respond to this posting with a resume and cover letter.

CLOSING DATE: Open Until Filled.

Nexus Youth and Families is committed to equal employment opportunity in all employment practices for all individuals without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap, marital status, or veteran status.