

YouthLink Job Opening: **YOUTH ADVOCATE**

Build trusting relationships with young people
experiencing homelessness.



About YouthLink

YouthLink is a recognized leader in the Twin Cities and beyond for our work to build pathways of opportunity for homeless youth ages 16 – 23. Our youth-focused team provides innovative, evidence-based services that guide youth on a holistic level toward futures of education, employment, health and wellness, and housing stability. Since 2011, YouthLink has been home to the Youth Opportunity Center (YOC), a first-of-its-kind collaborative center where over 30 community partners make vital resources available onsite to provide efficient and effective interventions and strategies for youth in crisis.

Our Mission

Build healthy relationships with youth and the community to address youths' urgent needs so that doors of opportunity are opened to futures of empowerment, connectedness, and self-reliance.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Youth Advocate, as the title suggests, is an advocate and guide for young people in the YouthLink drop-in. The Youth Advocate connects youth with day-to-day basic needs in the short-term, and builds an understand youths' individual journeys, needs, and strengths through informal conversation, recreational activities, workshops, and group discussions over time. Through positive relationship building and youth development, the Youth Advocate is able to connect youth with the resources and services they need to take their next steps toward independent futures.

Key responsibilities include:

- Intentionally engage with youth in the drop-in and build positive relationships.
- Work proactively to create a welcoming, inclusive environment.
- Assess youth needs, make appropriate internal and external referrals, and ensure follow-through.
- Collaborate with YOC and community agencies based on youth goals and aspirations, and link youth with YOC partners and other community services.
- Create activities in the drop-in and facilitate discussions with youth in individual and group settings.
- Ensure facility security.
- Assess and appropriately respond to client crisis.
- Provide behavioral management in the drop-in.
- Maintain thorough and accurate documentation, reports, and records, including log book notations, incident reports, and client database entries.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries and observe and adhere to client confidentiality standards.
- Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

A Bachelor's degree in human services or a related field and/or 1-2 years of experience with high-risk youth is required. Qualified applicants must:

- Be accepting of a variety of lifestyles, behaviors, and cultural and spiritual practices.
- Be comfortable and effectively able to work in a high-energy, fast-paced, and flexible environment.
- Have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills.
- Be able to manage time effectively.
- Be able to verbally and physically respond to aggression when necessary in ways that de-escalate and establish and maintain staff and client safety.
- Be mission-driven.
- Be able and willing to learn and incorporate agency philosophy into service delivery.
- Be comfortable with Microsoft Office applications.

The winning candidate must be able to pass a background check and drug test in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.

Hours: Part-time, 20 hours per week, Monday – Friday. Must be available to work evenings.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

\$13 - \$15 per hour, depending on experience. Non-exempt. YouthLink's competitive and comprehensive benefits package includes:

- Medical
- Dental
- Life Insurance
- Long Term Disability
- Elective benefits: Short-term disability, FSA, 401(k)

HOW TO APPLY

E-mail a cover letter and resume with the subject line "Youth Advocate" to Stacey Peterson at peterston@youthlinkmn.org. Cover letter should include a response to one or more of YouthLink's [Guiding Principles](#) as it applies to your work with youth.

Equal Employment Opportunity: YouthLink shall seek to ensure and provide equal opportunity for all persons seeking employment without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, national origin, disability, or any other characteristic as established by law.