

YouthLink Job Opening: **SAFE HARBOR OUTREACH WORKER**

Build strong relationships to guide youth off the streets and into pathways toward independence.



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

At YouthLink, our mission is to support and empower young people on their journey to self-reliance.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Safe Harbor Outreach Worker provides street-based outreach to young people who have been or are at high risk of becoming sexually exploited. Half of the position focuses on outreach, identifying and building relationships with young people experiencing exploitation, assessing their immediate needs, and connecting them with available resources. When not providing outreach, the Safe Harbor Outreach Worker provides transition coaching services to sexually-exploited youth through the YouthLink drop-in center.

Key responsibilities include:

- Conducting outreach at times and in areas where it is likely to encounter young people who are being trafficked and providing basic needs supplies, information, and triage services;
- Establishing rapport and developing trusting relationships with youth;
- Assessing youth needs, developing and documenting goal plans, making appropriate internal and external referrals, and ensuring follow-through;
- Partnering with outreach workers from other organizations and the youth serving community, including organizations who provide services to sexually-exploited youth. And providing training on best practices in providing services to sexually-exploited youth;
- Supporting and advocating for youth with law enforcement and within other systems that affect them;
- Accompanying youth to appointments as a YouthLink representative;
- Assessing and appropriately responding to crisis;
- Providing flexible service coordination both onsite and in the community;
- Understanding youths' journey and providing non-judgmental service coordination based on a harm-reduction/trauma-informed approach;
- Completing, maintaining, and communicating individual program files, program reports, and documentation accurately and on-time;
- Ensuring positive and professional representation of the agency in all interactions with youth, co-workers, partners, and community;

- Maintaining appropriate professional interactions and boundaries with youth, co-workers, partners, and community;
- Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

A Bachelor's degree in social services or a related field OR 2-4 years of experience working with at-risk youth is required. Experience working with commercially and sexually exploited youth is preferred. Qualified candidates must:

- Be able to provide non-judgmental services, including acceptance of a variety of lifestyles, behaviors, and cultural and spiritual practices;
- Have an understanding of Safe Harbor laws;
- Be trained in harm reduction, positive youth development, and trauma-informed care;
- Be comfortable approaching large crowds and being exposed to illegal activity;
- Have effective written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills;
- Exhibit a high degree of professionalism;
- Be able to verbally and physically respond to aggression when necessary in ways that de-escalate, establish, and maintain safety of oneself and others;
- Have strong critical thinking skills and be able to assess and respond to unsafe situations while maintaining personal safety;
- Be able and willing to learn and incorporate agency philosophy into service delivery;
- Be comfortable with Microsoft Office applications, specifically Word and Excel.

Must have a valid MN state driver's license and access to reliable transportation upon date of hire. The winning candidate must be able to pass a background check and drug test in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.

Hours: Full-time, 40 hours per week, Monday – Friday. Hours vary. Must be available to work evenings as required.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

\$17.79 - \$20.20 hourly dependent on experience. YouthLink's competitive and comprehensive benefits package includes:

- Medical
- Dental
- Life Insurance
- Long Term Disability
- Elective benefits: Short Term Disability, FSA, 401(k)
- Paid vacation, sick days, and holidays

HOW TO APPLY

E-mail a cover letter and resume with the subject line "Safe Harbor Outreach Worker" 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.

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.