



Join Our Team

JOB TITLE DCFS and Probation Liaison

REPORTS TO Supervising Case Manager

STATUS Full-time, 40hrs/wk

ABOUT US

Safe Place for Youth (SPY) is the leading service provider for youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in West Los Angeles. Founded in 2011, our agency offers trauma-informed, low barrier programs that support young people in exiting the streets and achieving stability so that they can thrive, not just survive. Our robust continuum of care includes street outreach, drop-in services, health and wellness programming, case management, education and employment services, and housing programs.

SPY is a unique social impact agency that is committed to overcoming structural barriers to equity, community collaboration, and innovative youth-focused programming. If you have the skills, passion and collaborative spirit, join our growing team of nearly 60 employees.

ABOUT THE ROLE

Safe Place for Youth has expanded programming significantly in the last few years and is now able to offer problem-solving (also known as "Diversion" or "Rapid Resolution") services which is a crisis response philosophy and approach focused on supporting youth experiencing a housing crisis to quickly identify and access alternative housing resources outside of the homeless crisis response system. By practicing active listening skills through creative conversations, the DCFS and Probation Liaison supports the youth in crisis to identify viable temporary or permanent housing resources within their own networks or resources, such as family or friends. In select cases and as a last resort, limited and one-time financial assistance can enhance an individual or family's success in rapidly connecting to alternative temporary or permanent housing.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Utilize culturally-relevant active listening and motivational interviewing skills with participants to identify possible supports in their network that can assist them with temporary or permanent housing outside of the YCES
- Liaise with, and provide technical assistance to DCFS regional office staff including children's social workers (CSW) for youth exiting or exited from DCFS



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- Liaise with, and provide technical assistance to, Probation Camp staff and field deputy probation officers for youth exiting or exited from DCFS
- Participate in discharge planning meetings and related services for youth and young adults exiting foster care and/or Probation Camps
- Identify safety or health issues that may need to be considered during identification of housing
- Provide mediation between households and property owners/family/friends to assist in resolving housing crisis
- Partner with legal service providers to resolve housing crises
- Deliver both field- and place-based supportive services, as appropriate, to participants
- Acquire resources and make successful referrals, including follow-up to ensure the participant successfully accesses and initially retains housing
- Negotiate terms of agreements between participants and host as appropriate (e.g. actively seek employment, attend to medical/mental health/substance abuse issues, complete household chores weekly, etc.)
- Ensure services are documented (e.g. face to face, phone and collateral contacts) in the LA CoC homeless management information system (HMIS) in a timely and thorough manner
- Assist in budgeting with participants, and determine what level of minimal assistance is necessary to be successfully housed or have housing crisis resolved
- Facilitate access to YCES for participants, as appropriate, including the completion of the Initial Triage and Initial Assessment phases of system access and assessment
- For participants gaining entry into CES, provide a warm handoff to sustained case management services where possible, or provide initial case management for up to 60 days upon the participant gaining CES access
- Deliver services based on participant strengths
- Attend trainings and participate in regular technical assistance such as learning collaboratives

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1 – 3 years' experience working with youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- Knowledge and experience working with co-occurring populations (chronic health conditions, mental health and substance abuse)
- Knowledge and experience with motivational interviewing, evidence-based practices, and trauma informed care
- Understanding of Housing First and Harm Reduction
- Strong understanding of homeless services including CES and HMIS database
- Strong understanding of LA County foster care and juvenile justice systems, including foster care placement options, participant rights and eligibility, and discharge planning processes
- Strong belief in growth mindset, self-determination, and psychological resilience
- Compliance with information and security policy and procedures
- Bilingual in Spanish is a plus
- Must have valid CA Driver's License and a clean driving record



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BENEFITS & PERKS

Safe Place for Youth offers a competitive benefit package including comprehensive health coverage, 403b with agency contribution, and vacation/sick time. We also offer unique perks including a generous 9/80 Flex work schedule, weekly meditation/mindfulness, and professional development opportunities that are tailored to your individual career growth.

TO APPLY

Applicants should send a resume and cover letter to Jeanine Espejo-Watkins at jeanine@safeplaceforyouth.org with "DCFS and Probation Liaison Position" in the subject line.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that I have read and understand this job description. I agree that I can perform the responsibilities and meet the requirements listed in this job description. Furthermore, I understand that the responsibilities of this position may change to meet the needs of the organization.

Employee Signature

Date

Employee Supervisor Signature

Date

Community Partners® is an equal opportunity employer committed to a diverse and inclusive workforce. In addition, the organization will consider for employment-qualified applicants with criminal histories in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Los Angeles Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring.