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DREAMS Youthbuild and Young Adult Training Program

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Senior Social Worker

Department: D.R.E.A.M.S./Youthbuild and Young Adult Training Program

Supervisor Title: Program Director

Program Description

The D.R.E.A.M.S. Youthbuild program is committed to helping young adults become dedicated, responsible, educated, accountable, motivated and self sufficient, by assisting participants in obtaining their GEDs and securing full time employment in the areas of construction, health care, and technology. Along with our traditional YouthBuild Program, we recently were awarded an additional federal SMART grant to provide similar service to young adults ages 16 – 24 who are currently incarcerated, or have been released into specific census tracks in Brooklyn within the past year.

Both programs consist of: GED classes, construction training, computer classes, job readiness classes, life skills classes, job placement assistance, vocational and self development counseling, college preparation and placement assistance, mentoring, and community service activities. Youthbuild is a youth and community development program that simultaneously addresses core issues facing low-income communities: housing, education, employment, crime prevention, and leadership development. In Youthbuild programs, low-income young people work toward their GEDs or high school diplomas, learn job skills, serve their communities by building affordable housing, and transform their own lives and roles in society.

Position Summary and Essential Functions:

Reporting to the Program Director, the Senior Social Worker provides ongoing counseling support, advocacy, and guidance to YouthBuild program participants to help them address their personal, health, legal, and social service needs, especially those that interfere with their ability to meet the program requirements and their personal goals. The Senior Social Worker will also be responsible for working closely with SMART Grant students that have recently been released from a criminal justice facility, and are working with the Department of Probation and/or the Department of Parole. S/he will create individualized reentry plans for each participant and monitor progress towards the

achievement or lack of achievement of plan. The Senior Social Worker will conduct crisis intervention with all participants as needed.

The Senior Social Worker will exercise substantial discretion and independent judgment in determining how to address program participant needs, as well as advocating on their behalf. S/he will keep the Program Director apprised of significant decisions made. The Senior Social Worker is responsible for supervising the Reentry Specialist and the Student Social Work Intern. S/he works closely with the entire staff to build the youths' leadership skills.

Responsibilities

- Assess personal needs of Youthbuild and SMART Grant participants and help find resources to meet their needs.
- Provide individual and group counseling to Youthbuild participants biweekly and document assessments in the Department of Labor MIS system;
- Provide transition, goal setting, counseling and case management services to SMART Grant discharged young adults once they enter the DREAMS program, which are coordinated with probation and parole. As the primary service coordinator post-release, provide holistic supports, as needed, to increase reentry success.
- Supervise Reentry Specialist and Student Social Work Intern.
- Teach Leadership Development classes.
- Advocate with human service, health, court, and criminal justice systems to resolve issues facing young people.
- Make home visits, as appropriate, to assess needs and support young people.
- Meet regularly with staff to develop and maintain a consistent approach to supporting and expanding the personal growth and leadership skill of young people.
- Keep service records of contacts with YouthBuild students and SMART Grant students.
- Create and maintain relationships with community resources and service providers.

Qualifications

- LCSW preferred, LMSW required.
- SIFI certification preferred.
- Familiarity with Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- At least five years of counseling, job development, or crisis intervention experience with young adults.
- Experience working with young adults involved in the criminal justice system as well as knowledge of issues related to reentry.
- Strong commitment to helping young people succeed in an innovative training program to reorient their lives, nurture their leadership skills, and enable them to make a difference in their community.

- Demonstrated ability to connect with and be sensitive to persons who are/have been incarcerated.
- Ability to establish rapport and relate sensitively to a multiracial and multicultural group of young people.
- Knowledge of human service, health, court, and criminal justice systems' programs, regulations, and procedures, and alternative programs.
- Excellent interpersonal and problem-solving skills; ability to relate to a wide range of issues, people, and institutions.
- Strong organizational skills.
- Excellent public speaking, listening, and written communication skills.
- Sense of humor and nonjudgmental attitude.
- Ability to work as part of a team.

Please send Resume and Cover Letter to settlementjob@gmail.com