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**Position Announcement
NYS System of Care Pilot
JOB TITLE: Youth Peer Engagement Specialist
Salary: Grade 15
Salary Range: \$48,077- \$61,787**

The Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc. is seeking one (1) qualified candidate to fill the full-time position of **Youth Peer Engagement Specialist**.

Background

The Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene on behalf of the New York State (NYS) Office of Mental Health and in partnership with multiple state, local, and county stakeholders, will build on the successes and lessons learned from an initial System of Care (SOC) Grant received in 2016. This second initiative (anticipated 2020-2024) will continue to change the service delivery system and outcomes for children with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), and other children and youth who face cross-system challenges, and their families throughout NYS.

The NYS SOC Pilot will foster statewide adoption of High Fidelity Wraparound within the Health Home Serving Children model to enhance family and youth voice and support the highest quality care planning for those children and youth with the highest acuity levels of clinical and service need. The model will integrate family-driven and youth-guided values in the coordination and delivery of support and services to children with SED and their families. It is the goal that each county in NYS will be in the process of developing, or will have already established, a local SOC, and be utilizing High Fidelity Wraparound practice model. Working with their partners, NYS will provide training and technical assistance to county partners, community-based providers, family and youth peers, and Health Home Care Management Agencies throughout the state via the provision of evidence-based, culturally and linguistically competent, family-driven and youth guided practices within a strengthened, responsive, and sustainable community infrastructure.

This new position establishes for the first time a Youth Peer Engagement Specialist in the NYS Office of Mental Health Division of Integrated Community Services for Children and Families. We are looking for a team member who has a strong customer service orientation, attention to detail and creative problem-solving skills. Networking with a variety of peer advocates serving families, youth, and adults at a regional and county/community level and keeping abreast of industry needs and trends will be critical for this position. The candidate will have the ability to exercise sound judgment and maintain harmonious working relationships, be flexible in programmatic changes and scheduling, and be able to receive and respond to supervision. This candidate should have demonstrated experience in collaborative projects and can use this experience to foster collaboration, teamwork and enthusiasm among diverse groups. The candidate should possess an ability to assess, analyze information and develop action steps to further project goals with respect to youth-driven values. The individual's ability to work independently and as part of a team is a necessity for this project, along with strong communication skills (written and verbal). The candidate will serve as a member of the team by attending regularly scheduled meetings, by coming prepared, and by participating in discussion to ensure that the decisions of the project are youth-guided.

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

The successful candidate will

- Provide youth voice to all aspects of project development and implementation, including Division work, ensuring that all project components embody youth-driven values.
- Establish relationships with national and state organizations that can inform youth peer practice in the project and in NYS; conduct national and state research, as needed, to obtain helpful tools and information to contribute toward project activities;
- Work directly with two targeted rural sites and any expansion sites, along with respective regional peer advocates, to assess strengths, challenges and areas for specific technical assistance, goal setting and coaching to work toward a local system that reflects youth-driven values; technical assistance for two rural sites may include tool/material development, meeting convening, presentations, assistance with policy development and other related tasks.
- Co-deliver training, in-person or virtually, to family and youth peers statewide, with planned on-line refreshers and technical assistance related to the integration of Child and Family Treatment and Support Services delivery and participation in the Wraparound process.
- Complete training in strategic sharing of lived experience.
- Complete Youth Peer Advocate credential training within six months of hire, if not already a Credential or Provisionally Credentialed Youth Peer Advocate.
- Participate in project evaluation activities, including outreach and engagement of youth via interviews and surveys.
- Collaborate with the NYS Office of Mental Health, Bureau of Consumer Affairs, in supporting peer work statewide and participating in peer-to-peer support.
- Able to receive and respond to supervision.
- Integrate the System of Care framework into all aspects of the project.

Minimum Requirements:

- At a minimum, have a high school diploma, or high school equivalency preferred or a State Education Commencement Credential with interest in pursuing secondary education, with two years of relevant work experience in professional and/or volunteer positions in a leadership position.
- BA in related human services is preferred, with two years of relevant work experience in professional positions. This should include assisting and developing written materials for a variety of audiences.
- Meet the requirements for the NYS Credential for a Youth Peer Advocate OR Certified Recovery Peer Advocate OR have experience as a New York State Credentialed OR Provisionally Credentialed Youth Peer Advocate (YPA). See more information on pages 45-47 of https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/behavioral_health/children/docs/updated_spa_manual.pdf
- Be an individual who has self-identified as a person who has first-hand experience with social, emotional, medical, developmental, substance use, and/or behavioral challenges and has navigated service systems.
- Demonstrate the ability to use lived experience with a disability, mental illness, juvenile justice, special education, substance use disorder, and/or foster care Be able to use lived experience with a disability, mental illness, juvenile justice, special education, substance use disorder, and/or foster care to assist organizations and individuals supporting youth leadership development.
- Demonstrate comfort with sharing personal lived experience in the context of project, to promote youth-guided program and service development.
- At least one year of training and/or public speaking experience.
- Experience in all applications of Microsoft Office Suite and Outlook email..

- Possess a driver's license and dependable vehicle, or ability to work toward this goal within 3 months of hire.

Work Location: 44 Holland Avenue, Albany, NY 12229. At this time, telecommuting is in place and a gradual transition back to the workplace is occurring.

This position requires frequent statewide travel (25%) though currently this requirement is impacted by public health guidance surrounding COVID-19.

To Apply: Submit a resume and cover letter by September 3, 2020 on our website at <https://rfmh.applicantpro.com/jobs/1491667.html>. Only applications submitted through our website will be considered.

The Research Foundation is a private not-for-profit corporation and is not an agency or instrumentality of the State of New York. Employees of the Research Foundation are not state employees, do not participate in any state retirement system, and do not receive state fringe benefits. Excellent Benefits Package (e.g., details). Employer/Minority/Women/Disabled/Veteran Employer. VEVRAA 41 CFR 60-300.5(a) compliant.