

Youth Development Counselor

Youth Crossroads, Inc. (YC) is a non-profit community-based organization whose mission is to act in the best interest of youth, guiding them through life's challenges and inspiring them to discover new opportunities for personal development, healthy relationships and positive community involvement.

Since 1975 YC has helped tens of thousands of young people from the southwest suburbs of Chicago navigate the challenges of growing up healthy and confident. Through behavioral mental health counseling, crisis intervention, after-school academic and social-emotional enrichment, teen leadership training and community volunteer service, YC provides a range of opportunities for youth to imagine a brighter future for themselves and their community.

This is a brand-new position with the opportunity for the right individual to make it their own. As a clinician embedded in our Youth Development programs, the position has a unique opportunity to help youth and families who might otherwise fall through the cracks receive needed mental health services and support. While being bi-lingual English / Spanish is a plus, the ideal candidate enjoys working with youth between the ages of 11 and 18, is a self-starter and team player.

Qualifications

Master's degree in a Human Services Field (Counseling, Psychology, Social Work, etc)

Minimum 1 to 2 years' experience in Counseling and / or Crisis Response Services preferred

Bi-Lingual English and Spanish is a plus

Must have your own insured car and cellphone

Flexible and strong time manager; must be able to work independently

Must be able to respond to Crisis calls in the Cicero, Berwyn, Oak Park area in an hour or less

Be a strong team player, good communicator

Primary Responsibilities

Youth Development Counselor:

1. Actively participate in Youth Development programs 10 to 15 hours per week, engaging youth, building rapport and working as part of the Youth Development team. The majority of these hours will be between 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm.
2. Provide mental health screenings for individuals participating in YC Youth Development programs. Provide case management and referrals for those needing additional services.
3. Provide follow-up counseling services, individual, family or group, to a small caseload of individuals either during the school day or during Youth Development programming hours.

4. Assist Youth Development program staff with assessment of crisis situations occurring during program hours; and assist with crisis screening and follow-up services.
5. Actively participate in Youth Development team meetings and program planning activities.

Crisis Response Services:

1. As scheduled, be on-call to respond to CCBYS Crisis Calls within 15 minutes by phone and within 1 hour in-person. On-call includes overnights and weekends. Crisis calls may come from any of the following communities: Berwyn, Cicero, Forest View, Oak Park, River Forest and Stickney. Calls relate to youth who have run away from home, have been locked out of their home by their parent or guardian, or are at risk for either of these situations due to abuse or behavioral issues.
2. At the time of the crisis, services provided include but are not limited to consultation with police and/or school personnel, families or others, in-person crisis intervention services including emergency assessment, family reunification and/or emergency placement.
3. Provide follow-up services for all CCBYS Crisis Cases including family stabilization, court advocacy and case management. Services may take place in the family home, in the community (ie police station or school) or at the YC office.
4. Provide short-term individual or family intervention for families waiting to start other services. Services may take place in the family home, in the community (ie police station or school) or at the YC office.
5. Provide intake screening and referral for callers requesting YC Counseling Services.

Administrative:

1. Complete all casework in a timely and professional manner including YC paperwork and CCBYS / e-Cornerstone mandates.
2. Attend weekly supervision with the Youth Development Programs Director and Associate Director of Counseling Services to ensure quality and uniformity of services.
3. Attend and actively participate in monthly YC Staff Meetings, Youth Development Team Meetings and Clinical Team Meetings.
4. With the CCBYS Program Supervisor and the Director of Counseling Services, collect data for quarterly and yearly CCBYS reporting and YC program evaluation as requested.
5. Work collaboratively with police stations, schools, and other community organizations, providing information on services as requested.
6. As requested, attend or participate in other YC events, programs, etc. as a representative of the organization.

Salary & Benefits:

Salary Range for this position is \$42,000 to \$50,000. Salary will be competitive and commensurate with experience. Youth Crossroads, Inc. offers generous benefits, including medical/dental coverage, vacation and sick leave.

Youth Crossroads, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without unlawful discrimination based on race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, prior record of arrest or conviction, or current employment status.

HOW TO APPLY:

For consideration, please forward your resume and cover letter to:

Jaclyn Wallen, Associate Director of Counseling Services

JaclynW@YouthCrossroads.org