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## Foster Youth Education Liaisons—Pima and Maricopa Counties

### About FosterEd ([www.Foster-Ed.org](http://www.Foster-Ed.org))

The National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) ([www.youthlaw.org](http://www.youthlaw.org)) is a nonprofit organization that for over four decades has worked to ensure low-income children have the resources, support, and opportunities they need for healthy and productive lives. FosterEd ([www.foster-ed.org](http://www.foster-ed.org)) is a NCYL initiative aimed at improving the educational outcomes of children and youth in state care. FosterEd operates in Arizona, California, Indiana, and New Mexico and strives to ensure that every foster and justice-involved youth has an educational champion and an education team supporting his or her success in school. Our goal is that every young person in care will graduate from high school with a wide array of possibilities for their future.

### About FosterEd Arizona

FosterEd Arizona began operating a demonstration site in Pima County in 2014. The program ensures students in foster care are supported by a FosterEd Education Liaison, an educational champion, an inter-agency education team and a youth-centered education plan developed based on their strengths and needs. An independent evaluation found that the program has a measurable positive impact on the educational trajectories of the students served.

In January 2016, the Governor's Office, together with leadership in the House and Senate, introduced House Bill (HB) 2665. The bill, signed by the Governor on May 11, garnered support from more than twenty bipartisan sponsors. Its purpose is to establish a foster youth education success program statewide, supported by state funding and a philanthropic match. FosterEd is working with the Governor's Office, Department of Child Safety, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts, Attorney General's Office, Department of Education, and the State Board of Education to create this statewide program. Expansion will begin in Maricopa County in July 2017.

### Position – Educational Liaison

FosterEd is hiring 4-6 Educational Liaisons in Maricopa County and 1-2 Educational Liasons in Pima County to join the FosterEd Arizona Team.

FosterEd Educational Liaisons improve educational outcomes for students in foster care by providing educational supports and services that engage youth in school, empower youth to drive their own educational futures, and connect youth to family members, teachers, coaches and other natural supports who will champion their educational success.

**Essential Attributes- This position offers exciting opportunities to:**

- Demonstrate your belief that *all* children can succeed in school and life and are equally deserving of the resources and supports they need to achieve their goals.
- Exhibit compassion, hold youth to high expectations, and strengthen the natural supports of caregivers by listening and helping to problem solve so they can support their own needs.
- Build capacity within caregivers, child welfare worker and youth to self-advocate, through coaching, informal training and formal classroom-style instruction.
- Embrace best practices for promoting positive youth development and student-centered engagement.
- Value the new possibilities that are created when diverse people, beliefs and perspectives are included in our work.
- Demonstrate the ability to adjust to program requirements and changing priorities to support youth, caregivers, child welfare workers, and school staff.
- Participate in respectful, two-way communication, including giving and receiving constructive, candid feedback with supervisors, peers, and supporting teams.
- Help create a culture of strong partnership and collaboration within the FosterEd Arizona team and among external partner agencies and organizations.

**Essential Functions:**

- Improve educational outcomes for youth in foster care by working directly with youth to identify their educational goals and utilizing effective educational planning and teaming to support achievement of those goals.
- Bring together diverse teams of biological parents, foster parents, relative caregivers, child welfare workers, probation officers, behavioral health case managers, teachers and other school staff to support students in achieving their educational goals.
- Provide individual coaching and support to students in foster care to help them develop the skills and capacities needed to champion their own education.
- Provide individual coaching and support to biological parents, relatives, foster parents, and other adults serving as educational decision-makers for young people in foster care to ensure they are equipped to actively support the youth's education.
- Advocate to ensure that youth are getting the supports and services they need and to which they are entitled. This can include advocating for special education or section 504 services to meet the needs of students with disabilities, advocating for students to remain in their schools of origin, and advocacy around school disciplinary proceedings.
- Track required data in a youth progress database in a consistent and timely manner to allow for project evaluation and replication.
- Work remotely from a co-located school site and/or local child welfare office.
- Frequently travel within assigned county/coverage area to attend meetings on behalf of youth and to build relationships with schools, caregivers, child welfare workers, and other service providers within those communities.

- Support capacity building efforts via presentations and trainings to caregivers, child welfare workers and community partners.

### **Required Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree and/or experience in the fields of education, child advocacy, juvenile justice, or social work.
- Experience with advocacy or organizing, preferably related to education, child welfare, or juvenile justice.
- Demonstrated ability to build working relationships with individuals of various ages, cultures, socioeconomic backgrounds, and abilities.
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate and coordinate services with community agencies in a professional manner.
- Ability to pay close attention to details and to successfully manage time and prioritize workload.
- Excellent oral communication and relationship building skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Car and valid Arizona driver's license.
- Ability to obtain Arizona Level One Fingerprint Clearance Card.

### **Desired Qualifications**

- Graduate degree in education, counseling, therapy, or social work
- An understanding of Arizona's education, child welfare, and judicial systems
- Knowledge of trauma-informed and culturally sensitive practice
- Bilingual (Spanish/English)

### **Salary and Benefits**

This is a full-time position. The Foster Youth Education Liaisons will be headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona or Tucson, Arizona. Salary range is \$42,300 to \$46,600. NCYL provides health, dental, life, and long-term disability insurance, vacation benefits, and an employer contribution to a retirement plan.

### **Applications**

Applications are due June 9, 2017 by 5pm. You will need a cover letter, resume, and three professional references. Please indicate in your cover letter if you are applying for a position based in Maricopa County or Pima County. No phone calls please.

Apply at: <https://youthlaw.recruiterbox.com/jobs/fk0m86p>

*NCYL is an affirmative action / equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, ethnic background, sex, disability, size, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Applicants of color and those who will increase the diversity of NCYL are strongly encouraged to apply.*