

# Youth Empowerment Performance Project



## Resource and Healing Advocate Intern Job Description

**Job Title:** Resource and Healing Advocate Intern

**Department:** Youth Services

**Salary:** This is not a paid position

**Ideal Internship Time Length:** Minimum 8 months

**Location Base:** 835 W. Addison St.

**Reporting To:** Director of Services

### Mission

The Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP) strives to create a brave environment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI+) youth experiencing homelessness to explore their history, investigate new ways to address their struggles and to celebrate their strengths through personal, leadership and community development programming that incorporate different art-expression forms.

YEPP uses harm reduction, social justice, transformative and restorative justice, trauma-informed, and education for liberation (theatre of the oppressed and popular education) frameworks to contain and guide the work. As part of the work, we provide resource advocacy around housing, employment, educational, legal and health services, transportation, food, among many others.

### General Description

The Resource and Healing Advocate Intern has primary responsibilities to connect YEPP members with resources and opportunities to get to the next level of self-sufficiency and stability; develops and sustains relationships with partner organizations and community agencies to increase resources and services for members; and provides resource advocacy and trauma-healing support to assigned young people.

### Primary Tasks and Responsibilities

#### Resource and Healing Advocacy

- Meet with participants one on one to provide resource advocacy around: housing, employment, educational, legal and health services, food, and transportation, among other basic needs and/or resources.

- Navigate needs assessments around physical and mental wellness for participants and develop action plans to meet needs.
- Complete Progress Notes based on resource advocacy provided, and submit reports to the Director of Services as requested.
- Evaluating participants' progress periodically and making adjustments as needed to improve outcomes.
- Navigate outreach efforts among other organizations in order to expand the resources network across Chicago.
- Provide space to participants for emotional, physical and spiritual growth using motivational interviewing, trauma-informed, and harm reduction principles/tools.
- Provide resource advocacy support during the Community Drop-In Services.

### **Organizational**

- Attend CHAT (Community, Healing, Accountability, Transformation), Team Meetings and Team Self Care Time.
- Attend training and/or educational opportunities to further the work.
- Attend other organizational meetings as requested.

### **Events, Programming and Special Projects**

- Assist during rehearsals facilitating workshops, providing resource advocacy, healing spaces, mediation, etc.
- Attend performances, outreach efforts, or other public engagements as needed
- Coordinate specific special projects that will be brainstormed with the Director of Services.

### **Required Skills/Qualifications**

- Proficient in Microsoft Office computer applications: Word, Outlook and Excel.
- Experience working with LGBTQI+ youth.
- Experience working with people experiencing homelessness or housing instability services/advocacy.
- Experience with and commitment to trauma-informed and harm reduction models
- Commitment to transformative justice.
- Commitment to working in a diverse environment in regards to race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation and gender.
- Able to work both on and off-site and clearly communicate with supervisors about work progress.

### **Preferred Skills/Qualifications**

- Bilingual (English/Spanish)
- Excellent verbal, writing, communication, and negotiation skills
- Ability to take initiative, be dependable, resourceful, pays attention to details while thriving in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work on multiple projects effectively and efficiently independently and collaboratively
- Knowledge of criminal justice, public policy, and social justice issues around LGBTQI+ youth homelessness

### **Additional Requirements:**

All staff are expected to consistently act within the values and frameworks central to YEPP, and in keeping with the mission of YEPP. Staff must have an overall commitment to serving the participants of YEPP, and to contributing to a positive, respectful and accepting environment at YEPP.