



JOB TITLE: Youth Outreach Support, ConneQT

REPORTS TO: ConneQT Program Manager, Youth Engagement

JOB SUMMARY: The position is primarily responsible for providing outreach, direct support and resources to young LGBTQI+ people experiencing housing instability and working with the youth who are/were participating in ConneQT or are interested in applying for ConneQT, helping them identify and pursue personal goals and assisting them in accessing community resources and future housing.

ConneQT is a host home program that provides short-term and long-term supported housing, along with supportive services for LGBTQI+ youth experiencing housing instability and homelessness. We strive to do that in a safe and nurturing environment through a social justice lens. Through such service, Avenues seeks to support youth and young families while they define their experiences, life dreams and futures. Our work takes into account historical trauma, systems of oppression and intersectionality while being grounded in the power of resiliency, healing and community.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work with youth who are not eligible for ConneQT or who have chosen other housing options to assist them in accessing basic needs, such as shelter and housing, and connecting to community.
- Work with youth in ConneQT as needed, with direction from Program Manager of Youth Engagement.
- Partner with youth to identify what their goals are by coaching, guiding and supporting the youth. Listen to youth.
- Help youth navigate multiple systems to access appropriate resources they need/want. Advocate for youth when necessary. Refer youth to internal and external resources.
- Support youth in addressing their health and wellness needs. Refer youth and ensure they get to appropriate appointments with outside health professionals and services, as needed.
- Actively and collaboratively engage with youth and develop supportive, trusting relationships. Maintain professional boundaries with youth.
- Help youth connect to community.
- Engage youth in mediation and problem solving. Respect their self-determination.
- Communicate consistently and effectively with youth and, when appropriate, with hosts.
- Complete and maintain timely documentation in individual files so that they reflect up-to date information regarding youth.
- Work in partnership with Program Manager of Youth Engagement to support youth and provide additional case management as needed.
- Work with Program Manager of Youth Engagement to provide coverage, support and planning for weekly drop-in.
- Develop and maintain excellent working relationships with community partners.

JOB SPECIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will have experience working with youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness, be able to take initiative and follow-through on tasks, enjoy working in a community setting, have excellent communication and problem-solving skills, possess a keen focus on the youth we support and knowledge of youth issues, as well as have an understanding of systemic oppression and a commitment to social justice, especially racial justice. Open to past participants of Avenues programs. Past participants must be at least 24 years old and have been out of Avenues programming for a minimum of 2 years.

Skills and Knowledge Required:

- Candidates with combination of education and lived experiences encouraged to apply.
- 1-3 years of experience working with culturally diverse, disenfranchised youth; demonstrated ability to connect youth with community resources; proven experience working with communities of color and transgender youth.
- Understanding of, experience with and commitment to positive youth development, harm reduction, trauma-informed care and strength-based youth empowerment models.
- Knowledge of addiction, mental health issues and domestic violence often experienced by youth who have experienced homelessness. Knowledge of day-to-day discrimination and violence often experienced by LGBTQI+ youth of color, especially transgender young women of color.
- Knowledge of systems of oppression and ability to recognize and challenge such systems.
- Strong oral and written communication skills. Comfortable speaking with diverse groups of people.
- Knowledge of and comfort using a computer, including email, word processing and data management.
- Organizational, social and problem-solving skills.
- Detail-oriented.

REQUIRED WORK SCHEDULE

- This is a part-time 16 hrs/week position, including 3 hours/week for drop-in.
- Work hours are a combination of day, evening and weekend hours.
- Weekly meeting with ConneQT team.
- Weekly meeting with youth.
- On-going and self-directed community engagement.

TO APPLY

Send resume, cover letter and references to Ashley Morgan, ConneQT Program Manager, Youth Engagement at amorgan@avenuesforyouth.org. Open until filled.

Avenues for Homeless Youth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) are strongly encouraged to apply, as well as past participants.
Past participants must be at least 24 years old and have been out of Avenues programming for a minimum of 2 years.