

Youth and Community Specialist – Job Description

Harris County Youth Collective is hiring for Youth and Community Specialists. Youth and Community Specialists are critical members of the Harris County Youth Collective team and help to drive the work within communities, especially those affected by the child protective and juvenile justice systems. YCS are the link between the public and nonprofit sectors that serve youth and young adults with members of the community and young people currently connected to child serving systems. YCS staff are called upon to represent the voice of young people and community members in initiatives in Harris County, Texas and nationally. YCS have an opportunity to both support and develop creative projects that lead to inclusion of youth and community voice in changing public systems. Below are more details on the position and qualifications for potential candidates. If you are interested in the position and meet the required qualifications, please fill out the [application of interest](#) by August 21, 2020. You can also access the application through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5m9trjy>

If you have any questions or issues regarding the job description and/or application, please email info@harriscountyyc.org

Position responsibilities include:

- Build near peer connection and relationship building with children and youth involved youth serving systems
- Canvas the community to identify dual status youth, community needs and develop community based research
- Support, attend and develop community events
- Train community members in partnership with local organizations and other HCYC staff
- Serve on Steering Committee
- Represent HCYC in other community efforts and initiatives as appropriate
- Identify speaking opportunities and opportunities to present
- Build partnerships with community based organizations to improve services and connections to youth

Expectations:

- Ability to work in a team environment
- Ability to perform administrative tasks to support the work and staff at HCYC
- Willingness to travel to local meeting locations
- Ability to engage in discussions with community members
- Commitment to fulfill scheduled hours to accomplish assigned duties and tasks
- Ability to comply with all rules, guidelines, and professional conduct set forth by program manager and Steering Committee members

Qualifications:

- Age 18-26 (upon hire)
- Previous personal experience with the juvenile justice and/or child protective systems
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Passion for improving the juvenile justice and child welfare systems
- Comfort with change and ambiguity
- Interest in advocacy and social justice
- Interest in growth and personal and professional development

Wage and benefits:

- Wage: \$18/ hour with opportunity for growth
- Professional development opportunities
- Gym membership
- Access to counseling and mental health services
- Ability to attend conferences
- Transit/ mileage allowance
- Remote working support
- Part-time up to 25 hours per week

About Harris County Youth Collective

HCYC envisions a community where all youth can thrive in the areas of wellness, education, and transition to adulthood. In support of this vision, we aim to create an aligned and data-driven system that is inclusive of families and caregivers, committed to equity, and responsive to youths' individualized needs. We work at the intersection of the child protective and juvenile justice systems to coordinate systems of care and ensure the best outcomes for youth who are involved in both. We are committed to including and centering the voices of those with lived experience to inform policies.

All employees must be able to work effectively in a mission-driven organization whose members and staff exhibit significant diversity with respect to race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, nationality, and religion. We are committed to the principle of equity and are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of individuals.

HCYC has an office inside the Harris County Youth Services Building located at 6300 Chimney Rock Road. There is free parking and it is located near to the Bellaire Transit Center and along the bus route. Currently, all HCYC staff are working remotely and require access to the internet.