



Student Care Specialist

Organization Overview:

Horizons for Youth is a community organization committed to helping children recognize and achieve their full potential. We are Chicago's only organization providing need-based scholarships, comprehensive support programs, and educational resources for students of all academic ability levels. We provide these resources to our students from kindergarten through the start of their career. We currently serve a total of 250 students in both public and private schools. Through our holistic approach, 99 percent of our program graduates complete high school and 84 percent have graduated from college or are currently pursuing their degree. These results prove that with the right combination of competencies, family investment, and community support every child, regardless of socio-economic status, can reach their full potential.

Position Overview:

The Student Care Specialist is a licensed therapist (**LCSW, LCPC, or LMFT**) who provides one-on-one and group therapy sessions to Horizons for Youth families in the afternoons/evenings, as well as case management support for program managers and Horizons for Youth Families.

The Student Care Specialist is integral to the success of the Horizons for Youth mission. Horizons for Youth depends on the Student Care Specialist to create a strong community and provide ongoing support for families.

Due to the availability of families for therapy sessions, the proposed hours of this position are 10:00am-8:00pm Monday-Thursday, with no work on Fridays. There is a requirement to lead Parent Café sessions during Saturday enrichment outings once per month, with comp days in exchange for working those Saturdays. Taking into consideration therapy sessions scheduled each week, this position has a flexible work schedule of 40 hours per week.

Responsibilities:

Therapy Sessions

- The Student Care Specialist will see approximately 16-20 clients per week starting in the afternoon/evening hours.
- Perform counseling with students, parents/guardians and families to address topics such as:
 - Anger management/conflict resolution
 - Anxiety/depression
 - ADHD, Executive Functioning and other diverse learning needs
 - Domestic Violence



Horizons for Youth

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- Parenting Coaching
 - Grief and loss
 - Healthy relationships
 - Life skills and personal goal setting
 - Self-esteem
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- Maintain detailed case notes about clients, including goal setting for therapy sessions.

Case Management

- Collaborate with Program Managers to ensure clients are making progress toward personal goals. Program Managers manage groups of approximately 40-50 students and are responsible for all aspects of the organization's relationship with the students, their parents, schools, teachers, tutors and mentors.
- Prospect community-based organizations or individuals that can provide additional mental health support to Horizons for Youth families.
- Create a resource library of community resources by neighborhood for areas where families served live. Create liaisons with key contacts at community partners, so Horizons for Youth can refer families to contacts for mental health, physical health, housing security, food security, employment opportunities and other needs.
- Conduct trainings with staff to raise awareness about mental health needs and share tools for promoting parent and student self-esteem, self-efficacy and ability to resolve conflict.
- Plan topics, and present or bring in speakers for monthly Parent Café sessions during Saturday enrichment outings.
- Lead crisis management for the program team, including recommendations for increased mental health support, such as time at in-patient facilities or any emergency services.

Team Collaboration

- Participate in special events and other development initiatives.
- Attend weekly staff meetings and bi-weekly program team meetings.
- Lead bi-weekly one-on-one meetings with program managers to discuss family support needs
- Track non-confidential information in our customized Salesforce database.

Requirements

- Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Work or Counseling, and clinical license: **LCSW, LPCP, or LMFT.**
- Minimum two years of experience working with children and parents in a clinical setting.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong time management and conflict resolution skills required.
- Understanding of and commitment to the empowerment of families from low-income areas and experience working with diverse communities is critical.



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- Considerable organizational skills, time management and interpersonal skills, sensitivity and personal initiative required.
- Experience with crisis management.
- Malpractice insurance.
- A criminal background check will be performed upon hiring.
- **English/Spanish bilingual candidates are encouraged to apply.**

Horizons for Youth is an equal opportunity employer and seeks to employ qualified individuals based on individual merit. Horizons for Youth does not discriminate against any individual with respect to the terms and conditions of employment based on that individual's race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, disability, genetic information, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, housing status, or any other non-merit factor protected under state, local or federal laws. Equal Employment Opportunity applies to all personnel actions such as recruiting, hiring, compensation, benefits, promotions, training, transfer, termination, and opportunities for training. Horizons for Youth is committed to a fair and equitable workplace where everyone is a respected and valued member of the team.

This is a full-time position (40 hours a week). The position includes paid vacation and health, dental, and life insurance benefits, with 100% of employee premiums paid by Horizons for Youth.

To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to horizonslcsw@gmail.com.