



Youth Advocate, My First Place

ABOUT THE JOB

My First Place is an education and employment program developed nearly two decades ago by First Place for Youth. Envisioning a future where the disparities between foster youth and their non-foster peers have been eliminated, the My First Place program will be expanding to communities across the country, starting with HopeWell's implementation in Boston. Through My First Place, youth receive stable, safe and affordable housing, community-based case management, and individualized education and employment support. A team of staff including a Youth Advocate, an Education and Employment Specialist, and a Housing Specialist, support a youth in working towards healthy living, education, employment, and housing goals that the youth sets for himself/herself.

The Youth Advocate is a dynamic, collaborative and results-oriented service provider who will partner with 18-24-year-old transition-age foster youth to support them in their path to independence. This position requires a clinical professional whose passion for HopeWell's vision is matched with sound judgment in the face of complex challenges, and a proven track record of successfully supporting transition age youth.

The Youth Advocate is responsible for case management, psychosocial assessment, and development and implementation of intervention strategies. The Youth Advocate provides clinical leadership to a multi-disciplinary team. They provide coaching to support each youth to achieve goals of housing stability, sustainable and sustaining employment, and educational achievement. The Youth Advocate is active in developing, supporting and implementing an individualized, strength-based, culturally competent, youth-centered approach. Successful Youth Advocates understand how to motivate, influence, and mentor young adults to achieve goals while partnering with the program director to support independent living.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop a partnership strategy with each youth.
- Provide direct support, coaching, mentoring and intervention to increase youth self-sufficiency and goal attainment.
- Provide youth with individual counseling, crisis intervention, referrals, advocacy and life skills training, as well as crisis counseling as needed.
- Provide on-going assessment of youth well-being and develops plans to ensure safety and de-escalate crisis as needed.
- Provide clinical leadership to multi-disciplinary teams consisting of youth, family and other natural supporters, social workers, Employment and Education Specialists, and Housing Specialists to ensure seamless and effective service delivery
- Collaborate with community providers including but not limited to social workers, courts, professionals, vocational and independent living skills programs, schools, family members and significant others
- Complete documentation including but not limited to intake paperwork and consents, Care and Services plans, needs assessments, and progress notes
- Ensure continuous information sharing and communication
- Participate on a rotating basis to provide on-call coverage



HopeWell
CARE IN ACTION

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REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree in social work, mental health counseling, or related field. Master's preferred.
- Experience working with transition age youth with complex presentations including chronic trauma preferred
- Must be comfortable working in community settings
- High level of personal accountability for the quality and impact of work
- Excellent communication skills, professional demeanor, sound judgment, and strong organizational skills
- Strongly prefer a candidate that will have a demonstrated understanding of and competence in serving culturally diverse populations
- Willingness to work collaboratively, but with the capacity to work independently
- Computer skills sufficient to perform essential functions

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Daily access to an automobile is required.
- A valid MA State Driver's License
- Remain current in all DCF required trainings
- Clearing of background checks as required by state and federal law

BENEFITS

HopeWell offers a comprehensive total rewards package that values employee wellness, work-life balance, and continuous learning. Benefits include ***student loan pay-down assistance***, tuition reimbursement, funding for professional development, as well as a full suite of healthcare benefits, and generous paid-time-off.

To apply; please submit an application:

<https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/Apply/768176/HopeWell-Inc/Youth-Advocate-My-First-Place>