



## Healthy Families Family Support Specialist

### **POSITION SUMMARY:**

Following the Healthy Families home visiting program model, the Family Support Specialist is responsible for initiating and maintaining regular (weekly), long-term (up to 5 yrs.) contact and support with participant families. The FSS is responsible for building a trusting relationship and offering strength based services to all families assigned to the FSS's caseload. The FSS provides community outreach, engages in parenting education activities, assists the family in establishing and achieving goals, and advocates for the family as appropriate. These activities take place primarily within the family's home or in the community. This position is full time (40 hours per week) non-exempt and is grant funded.

### **JOB RELATIONSHIPS:**

- Reports directly to the Healthy Families Program Manager.
- Members of the Direct Service Staff and the Healthy Families & Doula team.
- Participates in all agency staff meetings, team meetings, and other meetings as assigned.

### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:**

- Assist families in strengthening the parent-child relationship.
- Assist parents in improving their skills to optimize a positive home environment.
- Help improve the family's support system.
- Increase the family's ability to problem-solve and advocate for themselves and their children.
- Identify and refer families to additional community resources, including healthcare and other basic necessities.
- Work cooperatively with families to establish goals and develop a plan for accomplishing those goals.
- Conduct regular assessments of the growth and development of the children participating in the Healthy Families program.
- Track child immunizations for participant families.
- Suggest, lead, and model parent/child activities.
- Intervene with any appropriate developmental activities necessary to address developmental deficits.
- Conduct outreach activities.
- Community education as necessary.
- Maintain written documentation of all activities and contact with families, as well as referrals or contacts made on behalf of families.

### **REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:**

- Non-judgmental, positive attitude.
- Positive experience with infants, young children, adolescents and families.
- Knowledge of infant and child development.
- Experience in providing support to families facing multiple challenges and knowledge of family/infant health issues.
- Ability to establish trusting relationships.
- Acceptance of individual differences.
- Experience and humility to work with culturally-diverse families.

- Willingness to engage in building reflective capacity (e.g. capacity for introspection, communicating awareness of self in relation to others, recognizing value of supervision, etc.).
- Experience with, or willingness to learn about and implement infant Mental Health principles into practice.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong organizational and time management skills – demonstrated ability to meet deadlines, prioritize tasks, complete documentation and reporting requirements accurately and timely.
- Ability to work independently while being a team player.
- Ability to work flexible hours, some evenings and weekend hours as necessary.
- Proficiency in working with Microsoft Windows and Office software.
- Must have dependable transportation and ability to travel to homes of participant families and community partner sites but sometimes outside of, DuPage County area. Valid driver's license and proof of auto insurance are required.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT:**

- Work is performed in a variety of settings, including office environment, participant homes, hospitals, and community based sites.
- Ability to drive a car (does not include transportation of clients).
- Ability to climb stairs and ambulate in and out of site locations in all weather.
- Ability to lift and hold children and infants 3 years of age and under.
- Ability to bend and reach.
- Ability to learn and communicate training and curriculum materials via written, verbal, and visual methods.

**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

- Bachelor's degree in areas of childcare, early childhood development, education, social work or related field required.

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:**

Teen Parent Connection is committed to creating a diverse environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.

Position is non-exempt hourly with a range of \$23 to \$25 per hour depending on experience and qualifications.

To apply, please email letter of interest and resume to [hring@teenparentconnection.org](mailto:hring@teenparentconnection.org)