

Gateway Community Services Maine

Position: Youth Homelessness Outreach Specialist

Hours/week: 35-40 hours/week

Supervision: This role is supervised by the Gateway's Wellness Manager

Location: Gateway's work is focused primarily within the Greater Portland and Lewiston/Auburn areas. This role will be based in our Portland office, with some local travel required.

Compensation: This role is paid \$25/hour.

Major Areas of Responsibility:

Overview: This position is created in conjunction with the State of Maine's Department of Education as a part of their work to further the McKinney-Vento program to better support students who are unhoused, especially students who are also immigrants, refugees, asylees and asylum seekers. This work is primarily focused on connecting with supports around school – school resources, knowledge and advocacy around the rights of students who are unhoused. This work will also consist of connecting with school administrators to support cultural competency and institutional learning.

- Provide grassroots, culturally-competent community-based wrap around support for unhoused community members who are students, and their families. This can include connecting to students directly as well as shelter and school-based personnel;
- Provide high quality, compassionate and ethical outpatient psychological first aid to clients;
- Seek, connect with and share critical resources and organizations with community members;
- Advocate for students who are unhoused, using a knowledge of the protections and resources available – including a familiarity with those outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act;
- Support local school departments in professional development efforts to cultivate and develop their cultural competency, sensitivity and awareness – informing future practices and policies that can best support immigrant students who are unhoused;
- Attend weekly Wellness Team internal meetings and monthly meetings with the McKinney-Vento partners within the Department of Education network;
- Be familiar with the McKinney-Vento Act and the rights and protections it includes;
- Actively participate as a positive member of the Gateway nonprofit environment;

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- Support with community advocacy efforts – amplifying the voices of community members you are working with and the needs and opportunities that are identified by community members themselves. This includes the courage to self-advocate and communicate with the team what your needs, opportunities and boundaries are;
- Be aware of community referral sources and refer when necessary.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Skill in working with a variety of cultures
- Ability to provide necessary self-care
- Skill in working independently and implementing personal time management strategies
- Ability to demonstrate positive team interactions with other Gateway and connected partners
- Awareness of personal strengths and areas of growth
- Strong follow-through and attention to detail
- Intimate knowledge of the community – its members, resources, and organizations
- Solution-oriented
- Committed to working collaboratively as a part of a team, while also able to work independently and show initiative in building new connections throughout the community
- Ability to complete required trainings
- Multi-lingual skills preferred, especially knowledge of Lingala, Portuguese, French, Kiswahili, Somali, Arabic, Pashto or Dari
- Ability to be flexible and adaptable to different situations and tasks from day to day
- Ability to create connections with community members and organizations

BENEFITS:

As this is a full-time position, the following benefits will be made available: health insurance, 10 paid vacation days, 10 days of flexible paid time off and a 401k retirement option (with a match opportunity from Gateway)

TO APPLY:

To those interested in applying to be a Community Health Worker with Gateway Community Services Maine, **please send your resume via email to our Wellness Program Manager, Cadeau Assoumani:**

Cadeau.Assoumani@GatewayCommunityService.org