



Family Advocate Family Advocacy in Champaign County

A Family Advocate is being sought with the experience and vision required to serve families and the community as we move into a new phase of growth, development and sustainability. Family Advocacy is on a mission to develop, maintain, and support holistic, accessible, culturally responsive resources and advocacy services for the purpose of preserving families, enriching lives, and strengthening family and community resilience. To meet these goals, the agency seeks a dynamic, creative Advocacy Team member with exposure and experience in family and community engagement, resource development and referral, individual and group advocacy, and multiple systems navigation.

Family Advocates play a key role in strengthening our community's capacity to serve as an exemplar of how community stakeholders come together to support and promote child and family well-being. The ideal candidate will have strong interpersonal skills, an understanding of individual, family, and community development, and a commitment to the vision, mission, and values of Family Advocacy in Champaign County. Family Advocates develop and support leadership to empower individuals, families and community members to take an active role in reaching their full potential as mothers, fathers, spouses, caregivers, youth, professionals and activists in our community.

Qualifications

Family Advocates will have a bachelor's degree or come highly recommended for their extensive experience and success in a human service, health, or business management related field. Additionally, applicants will demonstrate or indicate the capacity to develop specialized competency in one of several priority advocacy areas, including: educational equity; health education and access; or employment and money management. The ideal candidate will have most, if not all, of the following characteristics and competencies:

Administration: The Family Advocate will serve as a case manager and team member responsible for retrieving or preparing required records and paper work, documenting and managing advocacy cases, and preparing reports in a timely fashion.

Advocacy and Relationship Building: The Family Advocate must have strong interpersonal skills and be able to work effectively across *diverse* constituencies and systems (i.e., parents, courts, human service agencies, school personnel, religious leaders, medical providers, community organizations and activists, higher education, etc.). S/He will need to establish strong relationships with community members of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds; mindful at all times they may be seen as the “face” of Family Advocacy. Additionally, it is imperative Family Advocates embrace the concepts and practices of teamwork.

Fundraising: Family Advocates will assist with fundraising and leveraging collaborative partnerships to ensure the continued growth and operation of the agency. In the coming years, a significant portion of Family Advocacy’s income is expected to come from an array of external funding sources.

Building a Nontraditional Program: The Family Advocate should have familiarity with creating and growing a social service or social change program. S/He should have the ability to consider long-established social issues in nontraditional ways, as well as experience planning and implementing community-based programming on behalf of youth and families.

Community Building: Family Advocates should have the knowledge and skills required to empower our community to help build protective factors that support strong and vibrant families, youth, and neighborhoods.

Strong Cultural Competencies: Family Advocates must be able to *reach* across culturally diverse constituencies and systems to advocate for *and with* traditionally underserved families and youth. The Family Advocate must embrace and demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice, cultural competence, and community engagement.

Excellent Interpersonal and Communication Skills: The Family Advocate should have strong verbal and written skills. S/He should also have the ability to apply their interpersonal skills, leadership skills, and professional insights to effectively interpret and influence policies and practices that impact children and families as they interface with public institutions (e.g. child welfare, juvenile justice, education, public health, social service, and municipal/county governments). Family Advocates must also demonstrate a strong commitment to professional development.

Quality Improvement and Program Evaluation: The Family Advocate must be able to work effectively with program evaluators and research teams for the purpose of assessing agency program outcomes.

Passion for the Mission: The Family Advocate position is not always the typical 9 to 5. Family Advocates must have a passion for the vision and mission of the agency and the willingness to model our philosophy in their everyday interactions with clients, partners, officials, and the public.

Compensation and Benefits

Family Advocacy offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with experience. Our Family Advocacy positions are ranked: Entry Level; Mid-Level; or Supervisory; depending upon applicant experience and position openings.

Application

Those interested in applying for the Family Advocate position should submit a letter of interest, resume, and list of three references by Monday, October 4, 2010 to:

Family Advocate Screening Committee
Family Advocacy in Champaign County
310 W. Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Successful candidates must pass drug screening, and state and federal background checks.