



Job Description

Project LAUNCH - Family Engagement Specialist

Project LAUNCH is a Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded program designed to promote the healthy development of young children through prescribed activities that advance the social, emotional, and behavioral health of young children within targeted communities. Vision for Children at Risk is leading initiative in St. Louis City, and our work is based on three key goals:

1. Improve coordination and collaboration across family and child serving systems.
2. Increase knowledge and behaviors of parents of children 0-8 on topics of early childhood development and community resources.
3. Increase capacity of child care and early child providers on topics of early childhood development.

The population of focus is children 0-8 years of age, their parents/guardians, and professional caregivers throughout the City of St. Louis. Project LAUNCH is a 5-year initiative.

Responsibilities:

- Continuous outreach to parents and caregivers of children, with emphasis on connecting with families that face access or service use disparities. Methods may include but are not limited to one-on-one outreach in the community, participating in community activities, using social media, hosting family activities, and collaborating with existing groups;
- Support families to be engaged in all aspects of the Project LAUNCH work;
- Help support the Parent Advisory Council meetings;
- Engage parents and caregivers to help them develop and enhance skills. Opportunities include, but are not limited to:
 - Community Cafés-amplifying the voices of families with lived experience through conversations that matter. Resulting action plan will be instrumental in the creation of a public awareness campaign focused on reducing stigma related to mental health.
 - Parent Cafés-creating safe and welcoming spaces for families to strengthen and encourage one another;
 - Vitality Cafés-helping families be healthy, in turn supporting the social and emotional needs of their children; and
 - Trainings; and peer to peer support.
- Promote the social and emotional development of children by connecting families to early childhood screening tools (ASQ), and connect them to resources including, but not limited to BHR;
- Assist in program implementation and reporting, as required by the Project Director;
- Participate as a full member of the Project LAUNCH team towards the accomplishment of goals and objectives of the initiative; and
- Other duties as assigned.



Experience/Qualification/Skills:

- Bachelor's Degree in child and family development, public health or other related areas preferred. Five years of experience in engaging families and the community as an equivalent is accepted;
- Knowledge of cultural issues within the target population and have a history of successful engagement with the population, lived experience is preferred;
- Comfortable modeling and sharing their own lived experiences as a parent or caregiver with others;
- Ability to work with individuals and groups in a culturally and linguistically competent manner;
- Values collaborative partnerships with families and professionals, and actively seeks to partner;
- Non-judgmental approach that is tolerant of diverse opinions and attitudes of others;
- Capacity to think beyond their own family needs to understand the perspective and needs of other families as well as the needs of agencies and systems;
- Knowledge of early childhood development across physical, mental, social, emotional and behavioral domains and related service systems;
- Excellent organizational skills with strong attention to detail and problem-solving abilities;
- Independent and self-motivated, able to comply with and enforce deadlines;
- Energetic and positive team player;
- Capable of handling multiple tasks with competing priorities under minimal supervision;
- Results-oriented and solution-focused with a problem-solving attitude;
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office products;
- Possess a reliable source of transportation; and
- Ability to lift 30 pounds.

Benefits:

Benefits include company paid medical, dental, and vision coverage with employee copay. Accrue 2 weeks of vacation and additional sick time during the first year.

Salary range: \$35,000 to \$40,000

Send cover letter and resume to nivy@visionforchildren.org

POSITION TITLE:	Project LAUNCH: Family Engagement Specialist
REPORTS TO:	Project Director
WORK SCHEDULE:	Full-Time
TRAVEL:	Often