



Job Description Family Engagement Specialist

Parents and Children Together-St. Louis (PACT-STL) is a federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) funded initiative focused on developing, implementing, and evaluating strategies that prevent child maltreatment, reduce entry into the public child welfare system, and enhance overall well-being outcomes of children and families. Vision for children at Risk is leading the initiative in St. Louis. Our work is based on three key goals:

1. Improve coordination and collaboration across family and child serving systems;
2. Reduce entry into foster care by intentionally linking families to local, community-based resources/services; and
3. Support the overall well-being outcomes of children and families, including changes in risk and protective factors.

The population of focus is children, youth and their parents/caregivers in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County rated as having severe inequity and risk for child abuse and neglect.

Responsibilities:

- Engage families who have come to the attention of the Children's Division to provide support and a "warm" invitation and linkages to services and/or resources that are of potential value
- Engage parents and caregivers to help them develop and enhance skills. Opportunities include, but are not limited to:
 - Cafes (To utilize the official Be Strong Families model):
 - Parent Cafés-creating safe and welcoming spaces for families to strengthen and encourage one another;
 - 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 child maltreatment;
 - Trainings; and
 - Peer to peer support.
- Continuous outreach to parents and caregivers of children in St. Louis city and county, serving as a mentor and/or resource advocate to connect families to the services they need;
- Participate as a full member of the team towards the accomplishment of goals and objectives of the initiative; Assist in program implementation and reporting, as required by the Project Director; and
- Other duties as assigned.

Experience/Qualification/Skills:

- Associates degree in human services or related field. Five years experience in engaging families and the community as an equivalent is accepted;
- Successful completion of criminal/child abuse and neglect background checks;
- Lived experience with the child protection system;



- Knowledge of cultural issues within the target population and have a history of successful engagement with the population;
- 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;
- Comfortable modeling and sharing their own lived experiences as a parent or caregiver with others;
- 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;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the dynamics of child abuse and neglect, prevention strategies and the impact of trauma;
- Ability to speak and write clearly;
- Independent and self-motivated, able to comply with and enforce deadlines;
- Energetic team player;
- Capable of handling multiple tasks with competing priorities under minimal supervision;
- 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: \$40,000 to \$45,000

Send cover letter and resume to ywest@visionforchildren.org

POSTION TITLE:	PACT-STL: Family Engagement Specialist
REPORTS TO:	PACT-STL: Project Director
WORK SCHEDULE:	Full-Time
TRAVEL:	As Needed