



Independent Living/PAL Specialist

Want to join one of South Texas' premier child welfare agencies in "restoring innocence and strengthening families?" Family Tapestry, a Division of The Children's Shelter, is looking for you! Since 1901, The Children's Shelter has provided a continuum of Trauma-Informed Care for Bexar County children with a history of prolonged abuse, abandonment and/or neglect. Family Tapestry was created in 2018 to weave together the community to transform the foster care experience in Bexar County. Our goal at Family Tapestry is to ensure each child is safe in care, achieves permanency, improves their overall wellbeing, experiences fewer moves and shorter stays in care, and increases family engagement, which leads to better outcomes, trusting relationships, and meaningful connections. It takes one person to change the life of a child. Will you be part of our tapestry to fulfill our mission?

Independent Living/PAL Specialist provides support to Foster Youth (age 14-21) aging out of the foster care system by providing life skills training and preparation for independence. The Independent Living Specialist will assist youth to identify needs, set goals in building life skills by mobilizing resources for individual counseling on employment, vocational, housing, and educational services. The job requires sensitivity to the services populations' cultural and socioeconomic characteristics.

Responsibilities Include:

- Develop and implement a multi-disciplinary Service Plan for each youth with the assistance of the Case Management Specialist.
- Assist in securing specialized services and implementation of such services.
- Assist youth to identify needs, set goals in building life skills by mobilizing resources for individual counseling on employment, vocational, housing, and educational services.
- Interact and act as a liaison between the school, placing agency, and other involved agencies, with regards to appropriate services.
- Involve support or biological family members in as many decisions as possible about independent living goals to assist the youth when emancipated.
- Provide weekly face-to-face contact as well as phone contact with youth.
- Review the progress of each youth by monthly written progress report.
- Assist Case Management Specialist in placement and referral decisions.
- Develop and participate in scheduled recreational and/or cultural activities for youth.
- Assist in providing and arranging transportation for youth.
- Participate in Plan of Service meetings and reviews, collaborative Intake meetings, as well as transfer and discharge meetings.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in social work or related field is preferred.
- Minimum of two years' experience working with at-risk youth is required
- Working knowledge or Minimum Standards for Child Placing Agencies is preferred
- Bilingual with English and Spanish is a plus.
- Demonstrate flexibility, autonomy, responsiveness, sound personal judgment and a high level of initiative.
- Maintain self-composure and self-control under stressful conditions, as this position requires a high degree of fortitude /emotional stamina. Clients may exhibit physical aggression, challenging, or offensive behaviors.
- Demonstrate a supportive, caring demeanor with clients.
- Demonstrate the ability to be a strong mentor to the person supported in learning independent living skills and providing guidance and feedback without diminishing the person's progress or efforts.
- Demonstrate ability to work in an environment that must be responsive to the clients' needs and wants versus a focus on following routines and set practices. Demonstrate ability to work as a single staff person in a program.

Family Tapestry is a Division of The Children's Shelter - an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to a culturally diverse workplace and offering a competitive pay and benefits package.

You can apply on-line by visiting our website www.familytapestry.org or in person at:

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Monday-Friday 8am-5pm