



Circle Keeper Team Leader

Job Description

Description of Organization

Lawndale Christian Legal Center (“LCLC”) is the only organization in Chicago where lawyers and social services work together to support justice involved youth right in their own neighborhood. Founded in 2010, LCLC’s unique model of community-based holistic legal services serves youth and emerging adults, ages 26 and younger, in the Lawndale area. LCLC integrates criminal defense legal representation with social services such as intensive case management, outreach, mentoring, detention reduction programming, workforce development, and housing. LCLC is the only community-based legal defense organization that serves youth through the termination of their sentence and after their case is over. To provide the holistic care our youth need, we have developed grassroots relationships with residents, service providers, and other stakeholders in the North Lawndale community through a local collaboration called the North Lawndale Community Restorative Justice Hub (“North Lawndale RJ Hub”). Through community-based holistic care, we envision a North Lawndale community where justice-involved youth are embraced by their families and community, restored from trauma, empowered to lead, and free from the criminal justice system. More information on LCLC can be found at www.lclc.net.

Description of Project

LCLC functions as the lead agency for the North Lawndale RJ Hub in implementing community-based services for the emerging adults progressing through the North Lawndale Restorative Justice Community Court (NLRJCC). The North Lawndale RJ Hub has partnered with the Circuit Court of Cook County to develop the NLRJCC, which serves emerging adults, ages 18-26, with nonviolent felony and misdemeanor charges. The NLRJCC launched on August 31, 2017 and is projected to serve 100 emerging adults in its first year. The NLRJCC seeks to reduce incarceration and criminal records by providing community-based services grounded in restorative justice practices and values as an alternative to traditional punitive practices. The purpose of the NLRJCC is to heal and restore community members after crime has been committed. The North Lawndale RJ Hub provides circles, case management, and wrap around supportive services for NLRJCC emerging adults. The Circle Keeper Team Leader reports to the North Lawndale RJ Hub Coordinator.

Job Description

The Circle Keeper Team Leader must be a resident of North Lawndale and is responsible for leading the restorative justice peace circle process for the NLRJCC. The Circle Keeper Team Leader’s primary responsibility is to develop and equip the team of Circle Keepers servicing the NLRJCC with the skills needed to lead the restorative justice peace circle process. The position requires knowledge of restorative philosophy and experience in restorative practices to complete the following responsibilities:

- Supervise and support Circle Keepers across Hub agencies in preparing and facilitating restorative justice peace circles
- Lead restorative justice peace circles with the team of Circle Keepers servicing the NLRJCC and debrief those experiences
- Provide ongoing leadership and training to the team of Circle Keepers across Hub agencies
- Preserve the integrity of the restorative justice process in the NLRJCC
- Responsible for collecting data and reports from the team of Circle Keepers to submit to court and funders

- Attend court and share reports while advocating for emerging adults in the NLRJCC
- Establish strong trusting relationships with NLRJCC emerging adults, victims, families, community members, and court staff
- Develop strong relationships with the North Lawndale community, including but not limited to the North Lawndale RJ Hub
- Work with the North Lawndale RJ Hub Coordinator to create protocols and practices for delivering the Coordinated Care Model of Community-Based Services in partnership with North Lawndale RJ Hub agencies
- Be able to effectively communicate the restorative justice peace circle process for the NLRJCC

Required Qualifications:

- B.A/B.S. degree
- Resident of North Lawndale community
- Trained circle-keeper with a minimum experience of 2-4 years leading restorative justice peace circles
- Passion for restorative justice and criminal justice reform
- Knowledge of the criminal justice system and trends toward treating emerging adults differently than adults
- Familiarity with urban settings and communities of color
- Effective at building relationships with emerging adults
- Completed Restorative Justice Circle Keeper training
- Minorities encouraged to apply

Application: Please send cover letter and resume to the North Lawndale RJ Hub Coordinator, Onie Riley, at oriley@lclc.net. Include position title in email subject.