

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

Job Description

Job Title: Youth Counselor (Native Connections)

Reports to: Native Connections Project Director

Salary: \$24/hour, 100% Level of Effort

Hours: 40 hours/week

Summary: The Youth Counselor works with the Project Director and SWO Tribal Health to implement a five-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), entitled Tribal Behavioral Health (Short Title: Native Connections). NC aims to build upon Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal capacity to address the Tribal Council's declared Behavioral Health crisis, enacted Controlled Substance Act of 2017, and SWO Health Plan 2026-2030 Culture and Community Wellness Initiative. The NC program will assess the needs of the community by establishing policies, systems, services and implement strategic plans to address substance misuse and suicide/self-harm amongst AI youth from 10 to 18 years old and transitional youth ages 18 to 24. The Youth Counselor will support the implementation and tracking of the following outcome measures: a) number of policy changes completed; b) number of organizations collaborating, coordinating and sharing resources with other organizations; c) number of individuals contacted through program outreach efforts; d) number and percentage of individuals that will be receiving mental health or related services after referral; e) number of individuals who attempted suicide; and f) number of individuals who died by suicide. A flexible schedule for community and youth work, including evenings and weekends, may be a required part of the 40-hour work week. Travel using privately owned vehicle is required. The Youth Counselor is a grant-funded position for the period beginning 9/30/2024 and ending 9/29/2029.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Employee will be expected to:

- Provide training and mentor youth up to and including age 24 in in cultural and community leadership development.
- Serve as a role model and assist youth in cultural adjustment
- Connect youth to the wider community through outings, information sessions and workshops.
- Support, help guide, and empower SWO Youth Advisory Council and SWO Youth Empowerment Program.
- Help young people explore their ideas, identities, values and beliefs.
- Build trusting relationships with young people to support and empower them socially, emotionally, and educationally.

- Complete Community Health Worker certification to support youth and families to navigate systems and resources within the community.
- Integrate Dakota language and cultural understandings into prevention, intervention and postvention activities.
- Collaborate with Treasured Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Youth in our community.
- Facilitate land-based activities both onsite and in the community.
- Develop and organize community projects that support healing in the community.
- Deliver prevention and intervention education to groups within the school setting and for families and community members, where scheduled.
- Engage in postvention activities related to overdose and substance misuse.
- Participate and be involved in community activities and collaborative meetings, including but not limited to the Behavioral Health Interagency Team and SWO Health Plan work groups.
- Maintain client paperwork, progress notes, post-activity reports, and other program records.
- Participate in group activities with outside agencies, such as counselors, teachers, parents.
- Ensure protocols and procedures are adhered to in order to ensure the safety and well-being of our youth.

Job Requirements/Qualifications:

- Must have a high school diploma combined with experience working with youth in any capacity. (Please provide specific examples with letters of recommendations for the position)
- Experience with, and willingness to learn, Dakota Language
- Must have awareness of their own cultural beliefs
- Actively participating in a recovery program and willingness to share their story where appropriate.
- Acknowledgement of diverse cultural beliefs in our community.
- Understanding and compassion for the struggles youth face in our community and when working with other agencies.
- Willingness to learn new things, specifically in the area of Youth Work.
- Experience working with youth and families in a culturally relevant practice. Comply with all federal confidentiality regulations as specified in 42 CFR Part 2.
- Three references are required verifying that the person meets the qualifications and requirements stated in the job description

SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

1. Valid driver's license, liability insurance and reliable personal transportation to perform required local and regional travel.
2. Lives and promotes an alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug-free lifestyle, which will be verified by initial pre-employment, annual, and random drug screens.

3. Complies with all applicable state, federal and local statutes, and regulations, including those that protect health and personally identifying information, confidentiality, and privacy, as well as ethical obligations and professional standards.
4. Complies with policies and procedures that protect the public from transmission of communicable diseases, including immunizations, vaccinations, COVID-19 screening, TB tests, isolation and quarantine, and use of personal protective equipment.
5. Consents to and passes a Federal background check and character investigation required to have regular contact with and control over Indian children and vulnerable adults pursuant to Public Law 101-630.25. U.S.C., Chapter 34, section 3201
6. Physically, mentally, and emotionally fit to discharge all duties (with accommodation for short-term illness or injury and disability in accordance with the SWO Personnel Policies).
7. Flexible schedules, including evenings and weekends, may be required to perform community work.

Approved



Date



