



## Outreach and Engagement Fellow

### POSITION SUMMARY

Under the supervision of the OYC Program Manager, the OYC Outreach and Engagement Fellow is responsible for collaborating in leading complex programs and partnerships. The ideal candidate is a dynamic and goal-driven former foster youth entering the human services field, who is interested in a time-limited 12-month fellowship.

The position will interact with various community organizations, educational institutions, employers, public agencies to improve education and employment outcomes for young adults who are or have been in foster care. The outreach and engagement fellow will provide outreach and engagement to foster youth, co-facilitate young leaders counsel and participate in OYC workgroups. The outreach and engagement fellow will help shape our work to ensure the needs of current and former foster youth are represented from the perspective of lived experience and expertise.

The L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) is an exciting initiative that mobilizes cross-sector agencies, community-based programs and investments of the Los Angeles region to improve three key outcomes for transition-age foster and cross-over probation youth (TAY), ages 16 – 24:

1. High School Completion (graduation or GED attainment)
2. Post-secondary enrollment and credential completion
3. Workforce readiness and gainful employment with a living wage

OYC is based on the idea of working collaboratively to create system change and seeks to improve outcomes for foster youth in Los Angeles County.

### ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance for Children's Rights protects the rights of impoverished, abused and neglected children and youth. Our lawyers, advocates and social workers, together with hundreds of pro bono attorneys and community volunteers, ensure that children who are at-risk or in foster care have safe, stable homes and can access the education, healthcare, and financial supports that they need. We also help transition age youth overcome barriers to their stability and success, and we work statewide to improve child welfare practices and policies in order to remove the many obstacles that our clients face. Since 1992, we have helped over 150,000 children.

Charity Navigator has awarded the Alliance its highest 4-star rating for the past nine years in a row. This puts the Alliance in the top 2% of charities in the U.S. rated by Charity Navigator. The 4-star rating reflects the Alliance's sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

The Alliance is well known in the child welfare community for its knowledge, expertise, and accomplishments. Alliance staff members and our partnering pro bono attorneys are advocates for our most vulnerable children and their caregivers.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Understand the key and critical need for youth expertise in policy and programs
- Express a strong and clear commitment to the OYC and the concept of youth development
- Instruct, direct, counsel, and encourage individuals and groups of Transition Age Youth (TAY)
- Maintain structure and group control in a professional manner
- Understand and be willing to learn about the unique challenges and obstacles faced by LGBTQ, homeless, and foster youth
- Listen attentively to TAY, OYC partners, co-workers and supervisors
- Write professional reports and correspondence

- Speak effectively before small and large groups
- Daily troubleshooting and problem solving
- Understand the barriers Transition Age Youth face and provide suggestions and improvements to OYC workgroups
- Conduct research as needed to support the efforts of OYC workgroups
- Handle client issues to meet a solution in a timely manner
- Develop partnerships and maintain collaborative working relationships with partner agencies, government partners and philanthropic partners to increase resources and collaboration across systems and silos
- Submit supporting documents of leveraged opportunities to OYC Director
- Make appropriate connections/resources to OYC partners
- Represent the OYC and the Alliance for Children's Rights in public forums and be knowledgeable of all services
- Report updates and findings pertaining to program operation at departmental meetings
- Co-plan and co-facilitate workshops as requested
- Handle other duties as assigned.

## **REQUIRED EXPERIENCE & ABILITIES**

- Strong work ethic and an enthusiastic willingness to “roll up your sleeves” and take initiative, and follow through with commitments, to create greater opportunities for our youth
- Job requires being open to change and to considerable variety in the workplace
- Excellent time management – this position entails working with various service providers, agencies and peer advocates, often juggling multiple tasks at once
- Excellent interpersonal skills and a passion for and commitment to helping youth
- Impressive intrapersonal skills and ability to work with all types of people/personalities from diverse ethnic backgrounds
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively as a member of a team
- Must be able to work some evenings and weekends
- Ability to maintain composure even in very difficult situations
- Job requires being pleasant with others on the job and displaying a good-natured, cooperative attitude
- Exceptional organizational and follow-through skills
- A willingness to take on responsibilities and challenges
- Ability to establish and maintain professional boundaries
- Ability to accept feedback and deal calmly and effectively with challenging situations
- Ability to work with community and outside agencies in a collaborative and cooperative manner
- Computer proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite
- Excellent communication skills, both spoken and written
- Leadership experience working with community social service and health organizations strongly preferred or student or professional leadership experience preferred
- Applicant will be required to present current California driver's license, proof of liability auto insurance—as this position is required to attend meetings and events throughout Los Angeles County
- Associates Degree Required, Bachelor's degree preferred—and experience being a customer to the Department of Children and Family Services

*The Alliance for Children's Rights believes that all persons are entitled to equal employment opportunities and does not discriminate against its employees or applicants because of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, or marital status.*

*The above statements are of a general nature and are intended to describe level of work being performed by people assigned to comparable positions. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities and duties required of personnel so classified. The Alliance for Children's Rights offers a competitive salary and a generous benefits package. For more information about the Alliance visit <http://kids-alliance.org> and <http://laoyc.org>.*

## **TO APPLY**

To be considered, please submit a resume and a cover letter that outlines your interest in joining the Alliance, relevant work experience, and how you heard of the position to: [melisa@laoyc.org](mailto:melisa@laoyc.org) (e-mail submissions only/no phone inquiries). Responses will be sent only to individuals meeting the stated qualifications of the position.