

POSITION: LEx (Lived Expertise) LEADER SPECIALIST

SUPERVISOR: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

SUPERVISES: NA

FLSA: EXEMPT

UPDATE: 6/2022

POSITION SUMMARY:

The LEx Leader Specialist will be pivotal in advancing the Families Forward Virginia's *Thriving Families Safer Children* initiative, by implementing and developing Family Resource Centers across the commonwealth to support five to seven jurisdictions, localities, and/or communities to move from traditional, reactive child protection systems to community-designed systems that proactively support child and family well-being and prevent child maltreatment. This position will focus on grassroots community with family engagement to ensure that their voices are present in the implementation continuous quality improvement process. The LEx Leaders Specialist will also provide ongoing technical assistance and guidance as it pertains to impact efforts through local-level partnership building, local-level community outreach and engagement, and project development.

All duties are fulfilled in alignment with Families Forward Virginia's high-performing culture and core agency values of *Respect, Integrity, Champion, Collaborative, and excellence* as well as in support of our team-based environment in which all staff work together toward a shared vision and goal.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Coordinate with the Community Engagement Manager to lead the responsibilities of the *Thriving Families Safer Children* initiative.

Develop trusted relationships with families in local communities by coaching/leading/ and training Family Resource Centers as a primary prevention strategy.

Facilitate and be the hands-on-the-ground partner to lead discussions with individuals, youth, and families to cultivate the interest in co-implementing and co-building family resource centers.

Partner with the Community Engagement Manager to develop long-term and short-term strategies for incorporating meaningful involvement for LEx Leaders in project design and ownership. Will also build/ develop a parent alumni network across all Families Forward programs.

Identify, recruit, engage, convene and work inclusively with individuals (target populations, residents, and other non-institutional partners), networks and organizations to explore shared interests and create and act on common goals, priorities, and visions.

Listen, seek information from the community, engage in activities to understand community aspirations, and authentically restate the community's agenda from the community's perspective.

Champion and assess needs of the local family resource centers and provide ongoing technical assistance and quality assurance.

Develop, and present public presentations and training workshops about LEx Leadership as a community-based prevention strategy, as needed.

Other special projects and duties as assigned.

VALUE-BASED SUCCESS CRITERIA:

Possess a problem-solving approach to organizational challenges and help maintain an environment supportive of the same.

Serve as an open and available resource to colleagues across the organization and align with Families Forward’s culture of proactive management.

Embrace an “all hands-on deck” work environment where everyone is vital to its success and there is a sense of both individual ownership and shared purpose.

Adopt a proactive approach to setting and maintaining an organizational culture that is positive, professional, respectful, inclusive, energetic, and constructive.

Take calculated risks to improve performance, experiments with new ideas, methodologies, and procedures.

Build and maintain strong relationships with a wide array of allies and partners.

Embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion and ensure these foundational themes are reflected throughout the portfolio of work.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Strong written and oral communication skills with a range of audiences.

Experience with group facilitation, training, and/or team development.

Appropriate knowledge of how the child welfare system and/or human service programs work, and an appreciation of what it takes to be successful within those systems.

Skill to understand, communicate, and work effectively and respectfully across demographical, socioeconomic, language, and other factors that may be represented in diverse cultures within communities.

Ability to demonstrate skills in organization, coordination and time management.

Ability to be comfortable working in an open office environment, which fosters critical collaboration among colleagues.

Ability to think conceptually and deal decisively with practical matters.

Ability to thrive in an innovative, fast-paced, outcomes-driven and non-profit culture with limited guidance and a service-oriented mindset.

Knowledge and experience proficient in Microsoft Office applications.

Ability to travel with some overnights, as needed.

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION:

High school diploma or comparable education attainment (GED) required.

First-hand experience with the child welfare system and/or human service programs required.

An associate or bachelor's degree and/or 2 to 3 years' experience as an advocate with lived experience

Experience with various presentation technology, software, and platforms.

LICENSURES, CERTIFICATIONS AND ENDORSEMENTS:

Possession of a valid Virginia Driver's license, vehicle for travel and vehicle insurance.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER:

It is Families Forward Virginia's policy to provide an equal employment opportunity for all applicants regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, disability or genetic information, veteran status, or any other protected characteristic as established by law. Families Forward Virginia hires only U.S. citizens and non-citizens who are legally authorized to work in the United States.