**Position Summary:**  
NYU Langone  
RP3 Family Connector Coach (Part-Time)

We have an exciting opportunity to join our team as a Family Connector Coach!

A Family Connector Coach plays a critical role in implementing the *Family Connectors* program, a part of an NIMH-funded study on enhancing family engagement in services for adolescents or young adults who have experienced first-episode psychosis. A Family Connector (FC), who the FC Coach will guide, is a peer-parent or family member who supports other parents or caregivers raising or having raised a child with emotional or behavioral challenges. FCs provide instructional, informational, emotional, and advocacy support peer to peer or caregiver to caregiver and are trained to follow the *Family Connectors* program. We are looking for a professional with training in the broadly defined children’s mental health field and experience working with families to work part-time and provide support to FCs The FC Coach conducts weekly guidance and support meetings to guide the FCs and ensure that they adhere to the program model. Each FC Coach will supervise 2 to 3 FCs. The FC Coach will require about 20 hours each week. This grant-funded position is expected to start January 2022 and conclude April 2023.

**Job Responsibilities:**

* **To conduct efficient and effective weekly FC team meetings**. The program requirements are monitored and ensured through the weekly meeting with FCs. The FC Coach provides leadership in implementing the model by following the meeting protocol which is described in following sections of this manual.
* **To ensure adherence to the program model.** An evidence-based practice will not achieve its potential positive outcomes if it is not implemented with adherence to the program model. The FC Coach must be familiar with the theoretical foundation of the program and the mechanisms that have been developed to continually monitor adherence to the model by the FCs.
* **To provide support to the FCs*.*** The FC Coach must remember that the FCs are not trained clinicians. They are parents and family members who have been relatively successful in raising a child who has had emotional and behavioral challenges. This is their primary strength as a provider of peer-to-peer support. The families they work with each week will have many challenges and frustrations. Consequently, the FCs will need support to affirm they are doing a good job, to keep emotional boundaries in balance, and to prevent burn out. The FC Coach should facilitate a positive dynamic in the group to promote support for each individual FC.
* **To ensure FCs observe appropriate boundaries** with their families. Sometimes FCs want to try and help ”fix families” by either providing therapy, providing them resources such as a loan, drive them to an agency or even volunteer to baby sit their children. The FC Coach should listen closely to the reports of FCs and frequently remind them they are to support families by helping to generate solutions – not by attempting to solve a problem***.***
* **To provide back-up should a crisis arise**. Although we have found that a crisis within a family that the FC is working with is very rare in *Family Connectors*, the development of a clear procedure and the availability of back-up support for the FCs for a potential crisis is an important program component. The existence of such a plan gives confidence to the FCs that they are not alone, they are not expected to resolve serious crises, and they have the needed resources and supports available to ensure the safety of their families. The FC Coach must be familiar with the crisis procedure provided during FC training and remind FCs of the procedure as needed.
* Be compensated $25-35 per hour for serving as an FC Coach depending on prior work experience

**Qualifications:**

* Graduate-level training in a social service field that emphasizes clinical work (e.g., psychology, counseling, social work) or supervisory experience in the social service field.
* Experience or familiarity with peer or family support services
* Excellent organizational skills
* Respect for the expertise of parents in raising their children and deciding what is best for them
* The ability to interact comfortably with people from diverse backgrounds
* A clear understanding of the *Parent Connector* model and its implementation
* PEP credential qualifications
* Familiarity with the OnTrack New York program is beneficial

**Traits of an Effective FC Coach:**

The most important trait of an effective FC Coach is that they have experience working with the same families and agencies that the FC will be working with in *Family Connectors*. FCs will be turning to the FC Coach for insight and direction. This is easily done if the FC Coach is familiar with the target population of the program. Other traits that have been found to be important are:

* Experiences working with children who have emotional challenges and their families
* Experiences with ethnically and culturally diverse groups
* Experience training adults
* Experience supervising staff and ability to give strength-based feedback
* Comfortable relating to adults
* Good organizational skills
* Flexible working hours to establish a weekly meeting with FCs
* An understanding of how to monitor fidelity to an intervention model

For inquiries, contact Chelsea Flores

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