

**Purpose:** Family engagement advocates are parents / caregiver who have first-hand experience with the Child Welfare system, and who have exhibited qualities in their own efforts to develop permanency plans for their children with an understanding of how the Child Welfare system works. The preferred candidate possesses a positive attitude, sincerity, and a willingness to help others. In order to be **considered for this position, the family peer engagement advocates' case must be closed**, and they must be maintaining family stability.

**Family Peer Engagement Advocates:** have personal lived experience and have successfully negotiated the child welfare system. These parents offer a wealth of knowledge and experience in various ways:

- mentor parents currently involved in the system
- assist parents to attend scheduled child and family team meetings
- provide a supportive voice for the family
- participate on various committees and workgroups to represent the "parent's voice"

**Personal Qualities:**

- Past personal involvement and successful completion of services through the child welfare & family court system
- Genuine concern and compassion for those with substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence & justice system involvement
- Knowledge and understanding of Child Protective Service systems proceedings and terminology
- Sensitivity to cultural, ethnic and economic diversity, with respect for diverse cultural backgrounds and practices
- Working knowledge and understanding the recovery process

**Essential Job Functions:** The major duties of the job that constitute the fundamental tasks and/or responsibilities of the position. Employees must be able to perform the following essential function of the position.

- Promote needed changes in the systems that affect at-risk parents and children
- Provides peer support to families including via face-to-face and telephone interactions
- Meets documentation requirements in a timely manner
- Empowers families to advocate through coaching, mentoring and modeling
- Facilitates/co-facilitates meetings with families in the home, agency or community
- Advocates for and with families to promote Family Driven Care
- Empowers families to identify and use their community and natural resources

**Relevant Experience:** Must be a parent previously involved with CPS. Must demonstrate the ability to work as part of a team, communicate effectively with a variety of people including CPS workers and CPS providers in a strength-based manner

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| <b>Education:</b> High school graduate or GED and demonstrated ability to do the work | <b>Benefits:</b> Medical, Dental, and Vision Insurance, paid vacation, sick and retirement planning |
| <b>Driver's License:</b> valid NYS license<br><b>Reliable transportation required</b> | <b>Software Experience:</b> Microsoft Office 365, Video Conferencing,                               |

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Applicants must send a **resume with a letter of interest** to [employment@ftnys.org](mailto:employment@ftnys.org) to be considered.