

**Job Title:** Youth Peer Advocate

**Location:** In the homes & communities of youth located on Long Island, Queens, and Brooklyn

**Job Type:** Per-diem (Part-time)

**About Us:** Lodestar Children's Services is a nonprofit organization that provides one-on-one support to youth up to age 21 who are diagnosed with mental health challenges. Our mission is to empower young people by helping them build skills, confidence, and resilience through individualized care. We are dedicated to a strengths-based approach, empowering families to build on their strengths while supporting the youth's social, emotional, and behavioral growth. Our work takes place directly in the home and community of clients and their families, where meaningful change happens.

**Position Overview:** A Youth Peer Advocate (YPA) is a young adult, between the ages of 18 and 30, who self-identifies as an individual with firsthand experience with emotional, behavioral challenges, or co-occurring disorders. YPAs use their lived experience to destigmatize mental health challenges and support recovery, resiliency, and wellness in the youth they work with.

**Qualifications:**

- Have an active Youth Peer Advocate Credential **OR** be willing to complete training and an application to obtain a Provisional Youth Peer Advocate Credential prior to working directly with youth.
- The right candidate must be comfortable using their lived experience to serve as a mentor to youth, focusing on empowering them to be an active participant in their treatment.
- High school diploma or equivalent degree required.
- Strong interpersonal skills, empathy, and ability to engage children and families.
- Driver's license and reliable transportation for travel to client homes and community settings (required for roles on Long Island).
- Because our work involves supporting youth with mental health challenges, **Lodestar is seeking team members who can dedicate at least one year to the role.** This commitment helps us provide the steady, trusting relationships that are essential to our clients' growth and healing.
- Interest or experience in mental health, child development, or social services
- Commitment to professional growth and ongoing learning.
- Must pass all state-mandated background checks, including fingerprinting and clearance through the NY State Child Abuse Registry.

**Compensation:** Starting pay is \$27.00 per service hour during a two-month probationary period. Post-probation pay is \$30 per service hour. Staff is also reimbursed for some mileage and expenses.

**Schedule:** Dependent on your schedule and the needs of our families. The ideal candidate has the ability to work from 2 pm - 8 pm on at least 3 weekdays of their choosing. Sessions are 2 hours long, so timing can vary.

Interested candidates may apply online through [Indeed](#) or by submitting a resume with a cover letter to Dorothy Weiss, Program Manager, via [email](#).

**Any mental health information disclosed is confidential and will not be shared.**