

## **Youth Support Services Connection Worker**

StepStones for Youth ([www.stepstonesforyouth.com](http://www.stepstonesforyouth.com)) is an innovative and dynamic charitable organization in Toronto dedicated to creating positive and meaningful connections; increase school engagement, high school graduation, and post-secondary enrolment; and increase stable housing, improved mental and physical health, and strong support networks. *At StepStones we believe every youth in and from foster care deserves the opportunity to thrive.*

### ***Do you want to make an impact on vulnerable youth in our communities?***

We are seeking a full-time **Youth Support Services Connection Worker** to join our growing team. In this position you will be working with youth exiting the foster care and group home system to develop skills, work on personal goals, and match youth with caring long-term adult support people. This role is responsible for seeking natural supports within the community for youth involved in child protection services.

We are seeking an individual with training and experience working with marginalized youth who have lived in custodial care arrangements and/or who have minimal levels of support in their lives. This program focuses on building a circle of long-term support for these youth; engaging these youth in a trusting relationship with an adult mentor/support person; and effectively referring these youth to other services that assist with housing, healthcare, counseling, education, employment training, and basic needs support.

The position involves working with youth currently involved in the program and those identified by our partner agencies, as well as working directly with their mentors. Through creative, patient, and persistent outreach, the successful candidate will engage the youth and provide effective support and advocacy. The worker will develop and sustain up-to-date knowledge of relevant community support resources and create effective working relationships with key partners to promote a responsive and supportive approach to assisting youth in the program.

This position involves working flexible hours and occasional weekends. This position also requires assistance in the collection and presentation of program statistical information and on-going documentation when required.

### **Who you are:**

- You have a proven ability to build and maintain relationships by engaging others to effectively establish credibility, solve problems, build consensus, and achieve objectives.
- A thorough understanding of anti-oppression, anti-Black and Indigenous racism, diversity, LGBTQ+ positive and anti-poverty values and principles.
- You have a proven ability to work creatively and analytically in a problem-solving environment demonstrating teamwork, innovation, and excellence.
- You are self-motivated and decisive with the ability to adapt to change and competing demands.
- You possess strong organizational, assessment, and time management skills.
- You maintain accountability and reliability and are able to work effectively and independently under the pressure of tight timelines, competing priorities, and emergent issues.

### **What we're looking for:**

- 2+ years of successful experience working with youth who are considered high-risk and vulnerable.

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work (or related field) from an accredited University
- Valid full G Class Ontario Driver's License, reliable access to a vehicle and the appropriate insurance are required.
- Experience and/or working knowledge of adolescent development, community outreach, and engagement strategies for marginalized youth.
- Strong communication, time management, and organizational skills.
- Respectful of and sensitivity to race, culture, religion, and sexual orientation, and experience working with a diverse youth population.
- Knowledge of resources available within the Greater Toronto community including Child protection services.
- Experience in negotiating with other service providers and advocating on behalf of youth.
- Strong computer/Internet skills and knowledge of case management systems, reporting procedures and responsibilities and the ability to work within those systems.
- Ability and willingness to work Mon, Thurs, Fri 9am-5pm and Tues, Wed 11am-7pm. Flexibility required depending on the needs of the youth. A cell phone will be provided to the worker for correspondence with youth.

**What we offer:**

- Collaborative and supportive team
- Competitive annual salary (\$52,000 - \$62,000)
- Health and dental benefits package
- Generous paid vacation
- Flexible work hours
- Casual dress code and work environment
- Professional development opportunities

StepStones adheres to all public health guidelines for COVID-19 before attending the office or meeting youth in the community.

**We value and celebrate diversity**

We are committed to a selection process and work environment that is inclusive and barrier free. We encourage applications from all backgrounds and communities and are committed to having a team made up of people with diverse skills, experiences, and abilities. We actively encourage BIPOC and LGBTQ+ applicants to apply and we value the positive impact that diversity has on our teams. We are committed to equity, diversity, and social inclusion within our workforce and in all opportunities provided at StepStones. Accommodations will be provided in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Applicants are invited to submit a cover letter and resumé to the job platform. Please reference **“Youth Support Services Connection Worker”** in the subject line.

We thank all applicants for their interest in this position; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls or in person submissions please.