



Native American Youth and Family Center

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The Mission of NAYA Family Center is “...to enhance the diverse strengths of our youth and families in partnership with the community through cultural identity and education”.

Position Description

Position:	Youth Advocate
Department/Program:	Youth and Education Services
Compensation:	Starts at \$23.00 hourly
Benefits:	NAYA recognizes 16 paid holidays per fiscal year. Additional paid time off includes accruals of sick and vacation hours; vacation time is based on tenure with the agency. NAYA also provides medical, dental, and vision insurance, a Flexible Spending Account, and Life Insurance. Employees may enroll in a 401K retirement plan after 3 months of employment and NAYA will match employee contribution to their 401K, up to 6%.
Employment Status:	Regular, Full-Time, Non-Exempt
Hours:	General working hours are 9am-6pm; flexible work schedule available upon approval; evenings and occasional weekends, as assigned.
Supervision:	No supervisory requirements
Reports To:	Youth Advocacy Manager
Job Location:	Portland, OR
Revised:	September, 2025

Position Description:

This position is responsible for completing assigned program activities that comply with funding requirements and agency program goals to provide direct support to American Indian and Alaska Native students in developing skills, knowledge, and abilities to succeed in educational achievement. The Youth Advocate will work closely with youth to assist in the completion of academic programs and to improve reading, writing and math competencies. The Youth Advocate will need to be able to effectively communicate with students, guardians, teachers and school officials. The NAYA Family Center is equipped with a Learning Center and a College and Career Center, Internet access, and a small library. This position is primarily a direct service position (75%). The remaining time will be dedicated to record keeping, data entry, and general administrative tasks.

Essential Functions:

Advocacy:

- Provide outcomes-based student assessment, strength-based interventions, activities, academic counseling, goal setting and ongoing support for 20-35 Native American Elementary, Middle, and High school aged youth in coordination with families
- Provide students with academic supports; ensure students have access to educational skills and life-skill development programming, as well as any programs or opportunities that the students demonstrate an interest in or need based on youth assessment
- Perform educational advocacy on behalf of students with local schools and/or educational agencies
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with local schools and/or educational agencies

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- Participate in partner meetings at schools to effectively collaborate with school, partnering agencies and home
- Prepare written correspondence and/or program documents as required
- Perform assessment of family strengths to identify capacity to support student; develop support agreement with parent/guardian/significant family member to support student; develop and conduct parent/guardian skill building workshops

Connect student with services:

- Identify, recommend, recruit, and refer to NAYA Family Center programs or other community resources as needed and appropriate
- Disburse student/client assistance funds including bus tickets and school supplies in compliance with funding source and program priorities
- Refer students to the following programs, as well as support the student in an effort for the student to find success in these programs:
 - Learning Center: coordinate academic support with tutors and increase participation in the Learning Center through community outreach. Provide one-on-one and/or small group tutoring for youth during Learning Center hours, or during after-school times as well as serve as a teaching/subject resource for tutors
 - Skill Based learning opportunities: Plan, coordinate, teach classes/workshops that develop youth skills and knowledge so that youth have higher success rates in the classroom, testing and overall academic success in schools
 - Field Trips: Organize and coordinate fields trips that intellectually stimulate and encourage NAYA Family Center youth participation in accordance with agency policy and procedures
 - Out-of School Time activities: Recruit youth to apply for and be successful with spring and summer camps; the Youth Advocates will also be responsible for staffing and supporting seasonal camps and out-of-school time programming which may include leading a group, leading and/or recruiting workshop presenters, supporting NAYA's Learning Center, and other duties as assigned

Transportation: (Once approved by HR for active driver's license and insurance required, for using personal vehicles for modes of transportation)

- Assist the Youth & Education Services Department with the coordination of transportation for students (i.e. tutoring, field trips, after school programs, etc.) and provide transportation for youth using agency vehicles
- Provide transportation of clients as needed using agency vehicles and following agency vehicle reservation and check-out guidelines. Assist with picking up students from their schools and bringing them to the NAYA Family Center for services as well as assist with dropping students off at home after programming ends

Data Collection:

- Input data, meet deadlines, and maintain NAYA and/or contractually required information database systems to track client information
 - Includes documenting weekly case management services to students in accordance with agency policy and procedures (including use of comprehensive client database)
 - Includes entering client data, assisting and/or preparing periodic reports
 - Database examples include but are not limited to: Efforts to Outcome (ETO), Synergy, and WellSky

Additional Duties:

- Other duties as assigned by Youth Advocacy Manager and/or Director of Youth & Education Services
- Additional Youth Advocate Duties:
 - Participate in staff trainings
 - Perform community outreach and maintain an updated community resource directory
 - Prepare program planning activity worksheets in accordance with program guidelines
 - Prepare required activity reports and participate in program evaluation activities as assigned, including programmatic and fiscal reports as required by funding sources
- Additional NAYA Family Center Duties:
 - Understand and adhere to confidentiality

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- Comply with Mandatory Reporting Standards
- Coordinate wraparound services effectively with other NAYA Family Center programs and staff
- Participate in trainings and/or meetings to ensure program outcomes are achieved
- Represent NAYA with the utmost professionalism at community events and other public relations opportunities
- Work as an active member of departmental team
- Participate actively in cross-departmental team projects
- Contribute to fostering a safe and secure environment for community members and staff

Qualifications:

Education & Training:

- Associate's Degree with a focus in Education or Social Work or similar field preferred
 - A combination of equivalent education and experience may be an acceptable substitute
- Knowledge of Native American history, an understanding of the diversity of the local American Indian/Alaskan Native community and issues surrounding the Urban Indian experience

Certifications/Credentials:

- Certification (or ability to certify) and ability to maintain certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), 1st Aid and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

Experience:

- Experience working within diverse populations (specifically with the urban and reservation Native American population, including working within a tribe, board, or other organization) strongly preferred
- Three (3) years of experience in educational support, youth development and/or human services with low income and culturally diverse populations
- Demonstrated ability managing a moderate number of clients/cases (40 or more over the course of the fiscal year)

Skills:

- Ability to deal with different people and situations appropriately, including effective communication with people from diverse backgrounds
- Communication skills, active listening, verbal and written, including public presentation skills
- Proficient computer skills including:
 - Web-based research
 - Word Processing
 - MS Excel
 - Database use
 - Email

Work Environment: 60% office/classroom, 40% outside office including travel time. NAYA employees are expected to work on site most of the week. With supervisory approval, employees may be able to work at home 1 to 2 days per week after successful onboarding.

Physical Requirements:

- Lifting a maximum of 30 pounds
- The employee may be required to sit for extended periods of time.
- *Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.*

Equipment Used: Computer, phone, fax, copy machine.

Safety Considerations: Some travel may be required.

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Other Requirements:

1. Valid Oregon or Washington State Driver License (must be eligible to be an insured driver under NAYA Family Center's liability insurance policy)
2. Successful completion of a background investigation (including a fingerprint criminal history check; see [here](#) for more information)
3. Successful completion of a DHS Background Check Unit

Application Procedures:

Interested candidates should submit:

1. A Cover Letter addressing your qualifications for the position and why you are interested in joining the NAYA Family Center team
2. A current Resume

Note: Candidates selected for a job offer will be asked to complete a NAYA application, if they haven't already

Application forms and additional information about employment at NAYA Family Center can be found at <http://www.nayapdx.org/about/jobs>.

Application Deadline: Open until filled.

Attention: Incomplete applications will not be considered. Electronically submitted applications are preferred. Due to the sheer number of applicants, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. Please respect our no phone calls policy. This job description does not constitute an employment agreement and is subject to change by the employer due to changes in grants and funding sources.

Please send application materials to:
Human Resource Department
Native American Youth and Family Center
5135 NE Columbia Boulevard
Portland, OR 97218
Fax: (503) 288-1260
E-mail: jobs@nayapdx.org