

YOUTH SUPPORT PARTNER

A Youth Support Partner is an emerging position designed to provide intensive levels of direct support for youth who want it. These positions may be called advocates, youth support specialists, youth coordinators and many other terms. These positions are a distinctly different job than the wraparound facilitator and the family support partners, but work closely with both to obtain outcomes at the youth level. In general, but not always, the youth support partner is a graduate of wraparound, and is a young adult with experience in managing their own behavioral health issues.

Qualifications for youth support partners could include:

- Strong communication skills
- Ability to work with a team of youth, family members and human services professionals
- Computer literate
- Flexible, motivated, self-disciplined
- Sense of humor, good common sense
- Ability to establish a relationship based on equal responsibility and respect.
- Good working knowledge of children's services
- Familiar with community and resources
- Experience navigating two or more systems
- Knowledge of independent living skills
- Organization skills
- Ability to understand other cultures

Responsibilities may include:

- Engagement through education and direct support
- Helping carry out crisis stabilization
- Modeling Strengths-based approaches and sharing experiences
- Being team member as needed; temporary surrogate supports
- Carrying out Plan Strategies
- Link to natural supports and community resources
- Direct support to Youth
- Provide support in court
- Model parenting skills