



OPEN POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT: PROJECT DIRECTOR, PEER-TO-PEER YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

WHO WE ARE

The Children's Partnership (TCP) is a California advocacy organization whose mission is to advance child health equity through policy, research and community engagement.

POSITION SUMMARY

TCP is excited to announce a new partnership with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to administer a historic investment in youth mental health and well-being through a 5-year \$10 million pilot program designed to mobilize students to become agents of change for mental health and well-being in their schools through a peer-to-peer program.

TCP is seeking a highly skilled and experienced Project Director to be responsible for the collaborative management, development, and implementation of a pilot program, working closely with an Advisory Board, statewide partners, youth leaders, and technical assistance consultants to ensure programmatic excellence and progress toward reducing disparities in mental health outcomes for youth marginalized communities.

The ideal candidate has a successful track record of managing programs in public high schools in California, preferably focused on student health and well-being. This project director will work with eight pilot sites across the state to execute up to 3 school years of peer support programs that are responsive to the mental health needs of youth in those communities and connect to the broader ecosystem of resources and assets in order to inform a set of recommendations for a model statewide youth peer-to-peer strategy.

Peer support is an essential evidence-based strategy for supporting young people's mental health. This project director is expected to build on the strategies laid out in our [Advancing School-Based Mental Health](#) and [Youth-Centered Strategies for Hope, Healing & Health](#) policy briefs and supported by partner briefs, including [Youth Supporting Youth Expanding Peer-to-Peer Programs in Schools to Address the Growing Youth Mental Health Crisis](#) (California Children's Trust) and [Youth and Young Adult Peer Support Expanding Community-Driven Mental Health Resources](#) (Mental Health America).

PROJECT TIMELINE WITH KEY MILESTONES

2023: Advisory Board Creation, Pilot Site Application Process Launched
2024: Pilot Site Selection, Pilot Peer Learning Collaborative Built, Pilots Launched
2025: Program Execution, Evaluation, Learning Collaborative
2026: Program Execution, Evaluation, Learning Collaborative
2027: Wrap-Up Pilot, Deliver Final Program Standards a& Recommendations for Statewide Model

ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

Balance, Equity, Growth, Accountability and Trust

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Deliver and execute on an annual work plan in accordance with the deliverables outlined in TCP's contract with DHCS, and in support of the ultimate goal of the creation of model program best practices

- Establish and oversee the creation of a collaborative team of experts, including young people with lived experience, to create a vision for an exemplary Peer-to-Peer Youth Mental Health program
- Ensure programmatic excellence in executing on that vision, running a youth-led peer-to-peer mental health support program that is culturally-responsive, gender-affirming, and rooted in upstream prevention and early intervention.
- Outreach, engage and nurture current partners and develop new relationships with a wide variety of additional partners (to include youth leaders, peer-to-peer program staff, mental health experts and providers, community leaders, school administrators, etc.)
- Produce accurate and timely ad hoc and required reporting of programs' status and deliverables.
- Track, assess and document operational effectiveness; work closely with the pilot sites to identify and develop programs for sustainability, community-school ecosystem integration, and growth beyond the Contract.
- Manages the project within allocated budgetary parameters and contracts; ensure sound fiscal practices and procedures.

QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

- A minimum of 8+ years of relevant work experience in school-based youth program development and administration; a minimum of 3 years of supervisory experience
- BA/BS degree, preferably in the social sciences, public health, social welfare, education preferred; MA or other graduate degree a plus; Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credential ideal
- Experience leading large, complex, multi-year programs/projects at public high schools in California
- Lived experience in a community traditionally under-represented in leadership roles in nonprofit/education/mental health spaces strongly preferred
- Skilled at managing multiple complex projects with a diverse set of stakeholders simultaneously
- Educational background and/or awareness and understanding of youth mental health and peer-to-peer support programs a plus
- Experience administering public funding and knowledge of compliance requirements for government contracts, including public school budgeting a plus
- Ability to analyze problems; identify alternative solutions; project consequences of proposed actions and implement recommendations in support of goals
- Personal mental health experience; lived experience with mental health concerns personally or through family
- Demonstrated strong cultural humility and commitment to racial equity and anti-racism
- Experience developing and managing program budgets
- Willingness and ability to work autonomously, under the direction of TCP's President and in collaboration with TCP's Policy, Community Engagement and Operations teams
- Fluency in more than one language desirable

While TCP primarily operates remotely, this role will require the ability to travel statewide, with occasional overnight travel to meetings, program sites and conferences. TCP is committed to staff and community health and safety and will work with employees and contractors to ensure appropriate public health prevention measures are in place to limit community and household spread of COVID-19.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Email resume and cover letter summarizing interests & qualifications to search@childrenspartnership.org. State "P2P Director" in the subject line. No phone calls, please.

SALARY & BENEFITS

The starting salary range for this position is \$100,000-115,000 based on experience and skill set. The Children's Partnership also offers an excellent benefits package which includes 100% employer paid premiums for health, vision, dental, life and long-term disability insurances. TCP offers a matching 401K, generous time off policies and dedicated professional development funding that encourages and supports growth opportunities for all full-time team members. TCP is open to this position being a full-time team member or a contract-based consultant.

TCP is an Equal Opportunity Employer that values and welcomes diversity in the workplace and will not discriminate against applicants or employees based upon any characteristics that are protected by federal, state, or local laws, regulations or ordinances.