CAREER OPPORTUNITY

YOUTH SPECIALIST I/II
Division of Youth Services
Annual Salary Range $25,944 - $29,580

This is trainee-level to professional-level work in a treatment program for delinquent youth committed to the custody of the Missouri Division of Youth Services located in Kansas City, Missouri. This position serves as a youth supervisor with responsibility for the safety, personal conduct, care, and therapy of the youth during a shift, implements group and individual treatment plans, maintains security in buildings, grounds, and other posts, and intervenes during emergencies or altercations to prevent escapes and gain physical control of youth. The following tasks are the responsibility of the Youth Specialist:

- Provide Awareness Supervision to youth, with responsibility for their safety, personal conduct, care, education, and therapy. Awareness Supervision is defined as the ability to see, be seen by, and to hear and be heard by youth at all times in order to be capable of swift, appropriate response.
- Maintain security, including intervention and/or participate fully in physical restraints of youth during emergencies or altercations to prevent escapes and gain physical control of youth.
- Implement group and individual treatment plans.
- Role-model appropriate behaviors.
- Prepare reports regarding each client's adjustment and progress.
- Dispense medications to youth.
- Transport and escort youth in everyday and emergency situations.
- Work on shifts during the evening, overnight, or daytime hours as assigned by the supervisor.

Qualifications:  

YOUTH SPECIALIST I: Sixty or more earned credit hours or an Associate degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum of six earned credit hours in one or a combination of the following: Criminal Justice, Education, Psychology, Sociology, or Social Work. OR Two or more years of experience in group work which involved direct care and interaction with children (7-17 years of age) such as YMCA, schools, recreational facilities, or residential care programs, and possession of a high school diploma or GED certificate.

YOUTH SPECIALIST II: Two or more years of experience as a Youth Specialist I with the Missouri Division of Youth Services, and possession of a high school diploma or GED certificate. OR A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum of 15 earned credit hours in one or a combination of the following: Criminal Justice, Education, Psychology, Sociology, or Social Work. OR Four or more years of work experience in a residential treatment program which included casework, group counseling, juvenile rehabilitation, probation and parole, and/or social work for children (12-17 years of age), and possession of a high school diploma or GED certificate.

(Earned credit hours from an accredited college or university in Criminal Justice, Education, Psychology, Sociology, or Social Work may substitute on a year-for-year basis for the required experience at a rate of 30 earned credit hours for one year.)

Additionally, applicants will be expected to have applied for and obtained status on the Youth Specialist I or Youth Specialist II register via the EASE website, located at http://www.ease.mo.gov/

DSS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER