Pathways Home Landscape Analysis: Youth Research Advisor

Roles: Youth Research Advisor (~3-5 hours/week)
Company Name: Minnesota Justice Research Center
Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Compensation: $20/hour
Industry: Criminal legal system/Research
Position Type: Part time hourly, temporary term/project-limited (running from June 2023 through May 2024)

Organization Overview
The Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) - mnjrc.org - is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to driving meaningful change to Minnesota’s criminal legal system through rigorous and community-centered research, education, and policy development.

Project Overview
The Pathways Home project is a Greater Twin Cities United Way region-wide initiative to disrupt the pipeline into homelessness for foster youth and adults transitioning from incarceration to transform the housing system and create a region where all can thrive.

The MNJRC is partnering with the cohort of organizations and leadership team at Greater Twin Cities United Way to produce a landscape analysis of housing in the Twin Cities for youth transitioning from the foster and criminal legal systems. As the cohort of direct service organizations build their capacity to support young people through the Pathways Home initiative, the MNJRC will build on baseline data and work alongside the various partners to: 1) Better understand the extent of and reasons for homelessness for the target population; 2) Examine the direct experience of the target population in the Twin Cities specifically; 3) Analyze the connection between homelessness and the foster and criminal legal systems in the Twin Cities; 4) Examine the experience of direct service providers (the cohort members) and legal and foster care system actors in these spaces working with young people; and 5) Highlight potential for program and policy changes to strengthen services and improve housing outcomes for the target population.

mnjrc.org
Role Overview
In order to conduct a rigorous landscape analysis, the MNJRC is hiring a youth research advisor (YRA) to work with our research team to serve as a direct liaison to youth program participants throughout Hennepin County. The YRA will work around 3-5 hours per week (more in the summer months and less during the school year) and focus their efforts on outreach with other young people and ensuring the research centers the perspectives and experiences of young people. The YRA will report to the MNJRC Research Director and work in collaboration with 1-2 Research Assistants.

Responsibilities
- Engaging in coordinated outreach activities
  - Connecting with youth and young adults with experience in the foster and criminal legal system in the Twin Cities area and setting up meetings
- Supporting design of research tools (e.g. surveys, interview questions, etc.)
- Reading and summarizing background research
- Supporting data collection (e.g. conducting peer interviews with support from research team)
- Serving on panel discussions where appropriate

Required Qualifications
- Experience with community outreach, organizing, and/or education efforts
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Detail-oriented
- Reliable computer access and internet (e.g. home or library)
- Reliable transportation to get to in-person meetings in the Twin Cities area
- Ability to work as part of a team in a dynamic and virtual environment

Strongly preferred qualifications
- Personal experience with the juvenile justice system and/or foster care system
- Personal experience with housing barriers
- A firm commitment to understanding and transforming how we think about justice in Minnesota
- Identifies as BIPOC

HOW TO APPLY
Please send a brief (1 page) cover letter, that describes your interest in the position and how your qualifications align with those above, along with a resume (PDF preferred) to info@mnjrc.org. We will accept applications on a rolling basis until the position is filled.