



## Youth Engagement Specialist

### JOB DESCRIPTION

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**MISSEY, Inc. (Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting and Serving Sexually Exploited Youth)** is a community-based organization founded in 2007 to respond to the epidemic of commercial sexual exploitation in Alameda County, CA. **Our mission is to provide services to commercially sexually exploited youth and to work for systemic change with the youth we serve.** Our service model is focused on healing through trauma-informed, survivor-centered, and youth-focused approaches. We recognize the crucial voices of survivors in facilitating healing in victims of commercial sexual exploitation and the value of young people empowering other young people. Our work with youth is a partnership, helping them transition from victim to survivor to leader, encouraging their long-term stability and success in whatever path they choose. MISSEY believes that with the right opportunities and supports, youth can overcome the circumstances of their exploitation and thrive.

#### **Position Summary**

The Youth Engagement Specialist (YES) plays an important role in identifying and engaging with youth at the Alameda County Assessment Center who are vulnerable to or have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. Under the supervision of the Director of Integrated Services, the Youth Engagement Specialist is responsible for doing prevention, intervention and stabilization work with youth in the child welfare system, making referrals to MISSEY case management as needed. YES staff will collaborate across systems, participate in multi-disciplinary team meetings, and advocate for the needs of exploited young people as part of a service delivery team. YES staff works within the limitations of the organization's resources and in compliance with grants, contracts, and agency policies and procedures. We are looking for a candidate who will take initiative and be able to build rapport with highly at-risk and exploited youth; comfortable navigating systems; reliable and efficient; committed to the self-determination of marginalized young people; able to work collegially with colleagues and collaboratively with members of the MISSEY team; and steadfast in their goal of delivering services with impact.

#### **The ideal candidate for this position would:**

- Have a minimum of 1-year experience working with systems involved youth
- Have solid experience working with youth of color who have experienced homelessness, gender violence, trafficking and abuse
- Have a thorough understanding of youth development, advocacy, and the stages of change
- Be a continual learner deeply invested in women and girls
- Have experience building relationships with community partners and coordinating services that engage youth and support them to thrive
- Be skilled at addressing the bio-psychosocial, emotional and functional needs of young people

- Have an understanding of crisis intervention, de-escalation, restorative practices, interpersonal relationship and resiliency building, and harm reduction theory and practice
- Have the ability to co-create a strong, reflective, highly productive, and caring culture

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

Direct Services (70%)

1. Engage and build rapport with young people in the Alameda County Assessment Center milieu space
2. Assess participant's vulnerability to / or experience with commercial sexual exploitation
3. Facilitate 1-on-1 prevention sessions with youth identified as highly vulnerable to exploitation
4. Provide support and service linkages to youth, including referrals to MISSEY case management services
5. Provide follow-up sessions for identified youth who are placed in foster care and group homes
6. Attend Team Decision Making meeting, advocating for the young person, utilizing a strengths-based framework and representing the organizational philosophy
7. Work collaboratively with child welfare workers, caregivers, housing providers, and other staff at the Assessment Center to improve the collective response to CSEC
8. Refer County staff, caregivers and group home providers to MISSEY's CSEC trainings and youth-prevention workshops
9. Maintain transparency and assist participants in making informed decisions
10. Provide psycho-education about exploitation and its aftermath to youth, their families or caregivers, service providers, and other systems that interact with the youth
11. Foster an environment that promotes harmony, partnership, alliance, healing, and thriving

Indirect and Administrative (25%)

1. Ensure Youth Engagement activities are aligned and in compliance with contracts, grants, and agency policies and procedures
2. Maintain up-to-date participant files with all relevant intakes, releases, and documentation
3. Input case notes in Cityspan online system within 24 hours of client contact; track activities and progress in notes
4. Accurately record and track youth participation and incentives
5. Collaborate with MISSEY team to support organization-wide initiatives
6. Participate in weekly one-on-one supervision, the development of work plans and annual reviews

Other (5%)

1. Implement goals and objectives of the Alameda County Social Services grant
2. Actively participate in supervision, case conferences, staff meetings and trainings
3. Cover drop-in milieu and engagement services as needed
4. Guide and participate in collaborative processes to improve all work at MISSEY

**Qualifications:**

- Minimum 2 years' experience working with strength-based and client-centered models, restorative and trauma-informed care practices.
- Bachelor's Degree in social sciences such as psychology, criminal justice, social work and/or public health preferred. Relevant experience will be considered.
- Experience in trauma-informed, healing-centered youth development.
- Experience working with African American cis, trans, and non-binary women and girls.
- Ability to identify, assess, and intervene effectively with behavioral health issues.
- Passion for supporting young people, promoting healing-centered, trauma-informed youth development practices, and working towards social change.

**Physical Demands:**

- Occasional lifting of up to 50 lbs.
- Requires computer use each day, including typing for many hours per day
- Requires ability to use a keyboard, monitor, cell phone, and calculator
- Requires the ability to communicate verbally, both in person and on the telephone
- Must be able to stand for at least 20 minutes at a time

**Work Environment:**

- Occasional outdoor activities
- Shared office space; main offices are on the second floor with no elevator access
- Ability to drive a motor vehicle
- Requires transport of clients and, at times, their children, using own vehicle
- Work in group homes, law enforcement facilities and county and state offices

**Required Licenses and Certificates:**

Current driver's license, reliable vehicle, proof of liability insurance coverage, and a clean driving record required

A criminal background check including fingerprint clearance  
TB clearance

**Position title:** Youth Engagement Specialist

**Classification:** Full-time, hourly, non-exempt, some weekends and evenings

**Compensation:** \$44,100- \$50,432 per year

**Benefits:** Premium Medical/Dental. Coverage of work-related travel, mileage, 15 Holidays off , 3 weeks starting vacation, and 12 accrued sick days

For more information about MISSEY, please visit our website [www.MISSEY.org](http://www.MISSEY.org)

**To apply, please send your resume and cover letter by email to [jobs@misssey.org](mailto:jobs@misssey.org), attention Human Resources. Enter the job title in the subject line.**

Due to the volume of candidates, we will be unable to contact each candidate individually. If you are being considered for the position, you will be contacted. We are unable to accept phone calls or walk-ins. MISSEY is an equal opportunity employer.

*NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY: MISSEY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE IN ANY PROGRAM, ACTIVITY, OR IN EMPLOYMENT ON THE BASIS OF AGE, CREED, SEX, RACE, ETHNIC BACKGROUND, MARITAL OR VETERAN STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR RELIGION. SURVIVORS AND WOMEN OF COLOR (TRANS INCLUSIVE) ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY*