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www.villageispossible.org

Job Title: Peer Support Specialist - Bay Area Based

Organization: Village Is Possible

Position Type: Part-Time, Hybrid of remote and in person required

Dates of Employment: June 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
(opportunity may extend into 2026 pending funding)

Location: Various Locations (Must be willing to work in the community throughout the Bay Area and up towards Sacramento)

About Village Is Possible:

Village Is Possible endeavors to create safe spaces for healing from the racial and genderized conditions that render our world unsafe for Black girls, womxn, and femme bodies.

Disproportionately targeted for commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), Black girls endure profound trauma, impacting generations. Guided by the mantra "Our Wounds have Wisdom," Village Is Possible pledges to create a supportive village for those affected by CSE, fostering reconnection with self, family, and land.

About Village Vibes:

Village Is Possible hosts monthly youth and young adult wellness experiences known as Village Vibes. The Village Vibes Project seeks to support and empower youth that have been impacted by sexual exploitation, foster care, and/or the carceral system. Participants will journey through a series of educational, preventive, and intervening practices to "Catch A Vibe" of healing. Healing through self and communal practices created by those who have also endured deep rooted, intergenerational layers of rupture caused by racialized injustices against Black and Brown Bodies (colonization, mass genocide, and policing) and perpetuated through systems of oppression (foster care and juvenile incarceration).

Village Vibes Project focuses on creating safe spaces for BEing, BELONGing, & (re)BUILDing the highest versions of self and community through:

- Recognizing self
- Reconnecting with land
- Nourishing Village Roots



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About Freedom Forward and the HYPE Center (Key Partnerships):

Freedom Forward is working to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of youth in San Francisco by transforming the systems that too often contribute to their exploitation. Guided by the voices of youth, Freedom Forward pilots collaborative and replicable approaches to address these systemic failures so that all youth have the opportunity to thrive. One of Freedom Forward's initiatives is the HYPE Center, which is a multi-service drop-in center designed by and for young people to easily access the services and resources they want from multiple providers under one roof.

We believe bringing services and opportunities together in one place will introduce young people to more resources in their community, reduce barriers to accessing services, and help young people succeed. We know that access to opportunities, meeting basic needs, and creating a safe space to belong are key factors in preventing vulnerabilities that lead to exploitation.

The HYPE Center is also part of a larger collaborative through a pilot funded by the California Department of Social Services and the City and County of San Francisco called SF Bay Area SOL (safety, opportunity, lifelong relationships). As part of this pilot, the collaborative is implementing a new emergency placement called the Youth Stabilization Pathway(Oasis).

The HYPE Center is currently located at 198 Potrero Ave. San Francisco.

PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST JOB SUMMARY

The Peer Support Specialist role is designed to support teenage youth and young adults who are on their initial steps toward recovery and healing. As a Peer Support specialist, you will serve as a regular point of engagement, offering support and connection to other services that youth/young adult may need. This role assists the Village Vibes project team in various capacities, gaining hands-on experience while contributing to the planning and execution of the events. Their duties and responsibilities are typically supportive, but they provide an important opportunity for skill-building and exposure to event management. This role also assists the Family Centered Treatment team by learning skills to assist youth in having restorative conversations with their chosen family members. This position prioritizes individuals with direct lived experience with family separation.



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Part Time Support Specialist: This position will provide \$20 - \$25/hr for 10-15 hours per week. Primary function at this time will be to provide peer support for youth connected to Village Vibes Events and Family Centered Treatment. Expected responsibilities for this position include:

Village Vibes Community Events

- Attending Weekly village vibes team meetings
- Providing Weekly outreach to youth for Village Vibes events 1-2hr/wk
- Participation and on-site event support provided at Monthly Village Vibes Events (1 Saturday per month 6 hours)
- Support in program development: Assisting in designing or selecting activities and games that will engage the youth.
- Input and organize participant registration data, keeping event records, feedback forms, and other administrative files organized and up-to-date.
- Help manage event promotion on social media platforms by posting updates, event teasers, or live content during events.

Learning and Professional Development

- Shadow senior staff: Learn from project managers, directors, and other team members by observing and assisting in their tasks.
- Gain hands-on experience: Take the opportunity to lead smaller projects or parts of the event under supervision, such as coordinating a specific activity or handling logistics for a single aspect of the event.
- Develop skills: Strengthen skills in project management, communication, problem-solving, and team coordination by participating in various phases of event planning and execution.

Direct Service Delivery

- Provide regular interaction (hybrid of virtual and in person) and support to youth in emergency placements, serving as their point of engagement and a trusted mentor.
- Connect youth with services, supports, and other community resources.
- Participate in and support the 4-stage respite care model utilized in the emergency placement.



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- Contribute to the HYPE Center's efforts in serving at-risk youth through various support roles and activities.
- Build strong, supportive relationships with the youth, fostering a non-judgmental environment of trust and safety.
- Implement harm reduction strategies to promote the health and safety of youth.
- Provide opportunities for Youth to connect with peers who reside outside of the placement setting. This includes but is not limited to Village Vibes event co-creation
- Village development through Healing Centered Engagement and Family Centered treatment
- Weekly attendance and sharing of insights at Family Centered Treatment Implementation team meetings
- Attend Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings as appropriate.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Direct lived experience in the foster care system or family separation is highly desirable for connection with the youth.
- Knowledge of harm reduction principles, trauma-informed care, and strength-based approaches. We will also provide on the job training and coaching along these areas.
- Experience working with youth or a background in behavioral health, social services, or a related field is preferred.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to connect with youth from diverse backgrounds and experiences.
- Commitment to the mission and values of Freedom Forward and the HYPE Center.
- High school diploma necessary, AA or BA preferred as there are note taking and oral presentation components connected to this position.
- Ability to serve as a positive role model and guide for youth on their journey to healing.
- Flexibility to work on-site, in the community, and in-home settings as required.
- Formal training in social work is not a requirement, but a background in supporting at-risk youth is beneficial.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

- Competitive salary commensurate with experience and education level.



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- Monthly Wellness Stipend provided to support health and well-being.
- Opportunities for professional development and training (Healing Centered Engagement, Somatic Abolitionism, & Family Centered Treatment)

If interested, email resume and cover letter to: welcomeVIP@villageispossible.org