

Job Title: SPARK At-Risk Youth & Family Support Specialist

Job Type: Limited Term Employment (LTE) - Grant Funded

Reports to: SPARK Program Director

Salary: \$21.88/hr **Wage scale:** Grade 10 Step 1

Location: Ashland

Job Overview

The SPARK At-Risk Youth & Family Support Specialist is a dedicated SPARK mentor with a focus on supporting at-risk and adjudicated youth and their families. This role serves as a link between educational, social service, youth justice, and judicial systems. The focus is on empowering youth to achieve their academic, personal, and social goals, reducing recidivism, and improving the overall well-being of these youth and their families.

Key Responsibilities

- **SPARK After school and summer programming-** Participate in regular after school and summer programming hours
- **Build Relationships:** Establish and maintain positive relationships with youth and their families.
- **Mentor Youth:** Provide one-on-one mentoring, including goal setting and skill development.
- **Identify Barriers:** Work with youth and families to identify challenges like finances, mental health, and truancy.
- **Navigate Systems:** Help families navigate barriers by advocating in schools and courts, and connecting them with resources.
- **Regular Meetings:** Hold regular meetings with youth and families to monitor progress and support success.
- **Community Networking:** Build partnerships with agencies and community stakeholders to support youth and families.
- **Advocate and Empower:** Help youth understand and overcome structural barriers, advocating for their needs.
- **Cultural Programs:** Collaborate with the Bad River Youth Services to help integrate cultural programs into existing SPARK programming.
- **Educational Support:** Serve as an academic advisor, helping youth succeed in school and pursue further education.
- **Employment Support:** Assist youth with job searches, resume building, and job readiness skills.
- **Justice System Support:** Advocate for youth in the justice system, providing support and guidance through court processes.
- **Outreach:** Participate in SPARKoutreach and events.
- **After-Hours Support:** Provide support for youth and families outside of regular hours as needed.

Qualifications

- **Education/Experience:** Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience.
- **Professional Development:** Willingness to pursue training in areas like trauma-informed care, justice system advocacy, and cultural awareness.
- **Experience:** Knowledge of working with at-risk youth, including familiarity with the juvenile court system, social services, and related areas.
- **Mindset:** Demonstrated growth mindset and a strong belief in the potential of all youth.

Core Competencies

- **Healing Centered Approach:** Use trauma-informed/healing centered methods in interactions with youth and families.
- **Cultural Competency:** Respect and integrate cultural practices, particularly in collaboration with the Bad River Tribe.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Encourage youth to take an active role in decision-making and their own lives.
- **Community Presence:** Maintain a visible presence on school campuses and within the community.
- **Positive Influence:** Promote values like respect, responsibility, and kindness among youth.