



JPA is a 120-year old social impact agency whose mission is to improve the social and emotional well-being and functioning of vulnerable children so they can reach their fullest potential at home, in school, and in our communities. This is accomplished by providing therapeutic counseling services to at-risk children and families, conducting research, sharing knowledge, and providing expert consultation and guidance to others serving these children and families. JPA partners with schools and centers across the city with the hope of sharing it's trauma-informed, mental-health, developmentally-informed lens.

Connect 2 Kids (C2K) is a pioneering program at JPA, aimed at helping teachers better understand and respond to the social-emotional and behavioral needs of Preschoolers and Kindergarteners to facilitate a successful transition to school. C2K partner schools are located in highly under-resourced communities in Chicago and many of the children have experienced multiple forms of trauma. C2K's relationally-oriented interventions provide ongoing mental health consultation, training, and support to teachers, along with thematically related parent community groups and social emotional classroom lessons for children. In addition to services, C2K also includes rigorous program evaluation and research.

JPA is seeking to hire a full-time mental health consultant who has expertise in early child development. The C2K consultant takes a lead role in this innovative program, providing critical support to teachers and families, while also having the unique opportunity to contribute to program development and evaluation. The consultant will work in three to four of our C2K partner schools on the South Side of Chicago. The anticipated start date is July 2021.

Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers and other school staff to provide ongoing, weekly mental health consultation in the school setting
- Provide support, feedback, guidance, and resources to teachers, with the goal of supporting positive teacher-child interactions and relationships
- Provide observations of individual students and classrooms, with follow-up reports/consultation to teachers and occasionally parents
- Facilitate school-based parent community groups on topics related to child development and parenting
- Facilitate school-based social-emotional lessons and activities for Pre-K and Kindergarten students
- Support with management of partnerships with schools, meeting and collaborating with school administrators about your work with C2K
- Meet weekly with C2K program director and other C2K consultants to participate in case consultation and planning for program implementation
- Complete necessary documentation and contribute to program evaluation and research activities

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in social work, professional counseling or related field required
- LSW/LPC required, LCSW /LCPC preferred
- Must have experience providing mental health consultation and 2+ years of professional clinical experience working with children and families
- Must have keen ability to make clinical observations and skill at providing reflective feedback
- Must have experience in relationship-based, trauma-informed, and attachment-focused practice
- Experience or background in early child development and work with children under the age of 8 highly preferred
- School-based experience highly preferred
- Experience and understanding of urban, under-resourced communities and the systemic forces that impact them
- Must have experience with and commitment to providing culturally responsive services
- Understanding of and commitment to social service values and ethics
- Must have a car



Benefits:

- Weekly individual clinical supervision
- Weekly staff clinical consultation
- Yearly professional development stipend
- Excellent benefits including generous paid time off, health, dental, and 403(b); Part-time position does not qualify for health or dental benefits
- Salary commensurate upon experience

JPA is an equal opportunity employer. Please email cover letter and resume to hr@jpachicago.org.