



**Job Description:** Youth Peer Support Specialist

**Parent/Professional  
Advocacy League** **Job Type:** Part Time (15 hours/week)

**Location:** MA Statewide

Want to join a vibrant, action-oriented organization making a difference in the lives of youth and young adults seeking better Mental Wellness? Do you have “lived” experience with behavioral, emotional, or mental health needs and/or have you been involved with state systems? Are you 18+ years old? Do you have a driver’s license and reliable transportation? If so, then this position might be perfect for you!

Parent/Professional Advocacy League, Inc. (PPAL) is a small but impactful nonprofit organization working to make life better for children, youth, young adults, and families with mental health needs. PPAL works with families, youth, and young adults throughout Massachusetts who need help navigating services in mental health, juvenile justice, school, and other systems. We work in close partnership with community and state agencies with the goal of supporting families, youth, and young adults, nurturing parent and youth leaders, and improving systems. More information about PPAL can be found at <https://ppal.net>.

PPAL is seeking an enthusiastic **Youth Peer Support Specialist** to use their personal experience, skills, and knowledge to assist with youth and young adult programming, offer peer support, and advocate for better services and systems support for those with mental health needs.

**In this role, you will:**

- Work with the Youth Coordinator to mentor and educate youth and young adults so that they can participate on committees and various meetings with system partners
- Advocate on behalf of youth and young adults with behavioral, emotional, and mental health needs by understanding and bringing their concerns to community and agency meetings or events
- Share the importance of youth voice with a variety of stakeholders
- As requested, and when capacity allows, support youth and young adults at meetings or events (virtual and in-person) in order to foster self-empowerment and advocacy skills in the youth or young adult
- Attend and facilitate or lead trainings of youth, young adults, and caregivers
- Attend Statewide Young Adult Council (SYAC) meetings monthly
- Attend community meetings as needed
- Work in coordination with community partners as directed by the Youth Coordinator
- Provide resources, feedback, youth voice, and other information to PPAL and Youth MOVE Massachusetts, via the Youth Coordinator
- Collect paperwork and data relevant to Youth MOVE Massachusetts programming and maintain as appropriate
- Provide high quality peer support for youth and young adults as directed by the Youth Coordinator
- Attend PPAL meetings, trainings, and other events as requested

**You’re a good fit if ...**

- You are compassionate, passionate, and motivated about youth voice and understanding.
- You have emotional, behavioral, or mental health needs, and/or systems involvement.
- You strongly desire to support PPAL’s mission of improving the mental health and wellbeing of children, youth, young adults, and families.

- You have a desire to learn, teach, and lead.
- You are good at planning and following through.
- You value open, effective, and timely communication with others.
- You are a forward thinker and anxious to respectfully share your ideas.
- You respect and value collaboration with varying perspectives and interests.
- You value cultural awareness and want to ensure that issues of diversity, inclusion, disproportionality, and cultural responsiveness are thoughtfully considered and effectively addressed.
- You have a driver's license and reliable transportation.
- You live in Massachusetts.

If this describes you, let's talk! Submit your resume and cover letter (including your personal experience with children's mental health) to [apply@ppal.net](mailto:apply@ppal.net).

This is a 15 hour/week position compensated at \$18/hr. This position is currently hybrid - office, home, and community based, as determined by PPAL. PPAL's office is in Westborough, MA. Generous PTO and paid holidays are provided. Strong preference given to those who identify as a youth or young adult. Bi-lingual a plus.