



The Texas Alliance for Child and Family Services Youth Impact Director

Background: The Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS) is Texas' leading network of mission-driven organizations that have embraced the call to serve vulnerable children, youth, and families in their communities. TACFS members across Texas work to prevent and address child trauma through services that include prevention and early intervention, family preservation, residential/foster care services, adoption, post-adoption, youth runaway and transition services, mental health, education, substance abuse, and other programs designed to promote safety and reduce risk for children, youth, and families.

Our mission is to strengthen and continuously improve the services, practices, and care for at-risk children, youth, and families. We achieve this mission through research, education, collaboration, and advocacy. The Texas Center for Child & Family Studies is a 501(c)(3) and a supporting organization of Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS). The Center strives to support and initiate the development of high-quality child welfare services to ensure appropriate care for all Texas children. The mission is to provide education, research, and training to strengthen the capacity of organizations and systems of care to deliver high quality support services to children and families in Texas. Please visit our website for more information: tacfs.org.

The TACFS team is mission-driven, highly motivated, energetic, and supportive of new and different ways of meeting the needs of the organization and our vast and diverse network of members. The organization was established in 1976, and we are continuously evolving in response to the dynamic nature of the work we do. Our overall strategic aim is to support our members so they can do what they do best - care for children and families. We aim to support the overall child, youth, and family serving system, including national and state partners. As we work to support best practices through the advancement of programs such as community-based foster care, alternative/differential response, or transitioning youth and young adult programs, the TACFS team is also driving systems change to grow primary prevention, family preservation, and reunification supports. Our vision is to continue building capacity across continuums of care at the local level to support child and family wellbeing through evidence-based policies and practices, ensuring that families have access to the critical supports and resources they need to safely parent their children.

This position will work in collaboration with the Selfless Love Foundation to lead the foundation's foster youth initiative work in Texas, One Voice Impact (OVI), which provides opportunities for young people to work alongside leaders to improve the child welfare system. This position will focus on growing the youth voice movement through a network of youth councils, coordinating youth voice opportunities, leading advocacy efforts, and tracking outcomes.

Reporting: Our Youth Impact Director will work under the immediate direction of the Chief of Staff and will work collaboratively with identified Selfless Love Foundation staff. Additionally, the Youth Impact

Director will work collaboratively with others on the TACFS team, TACFS CEO, and TACFS Board, membership organizations, and with other key stakeholders including state and national partners.

Key Responsibilities: Our Youth Impact Director is primarily responsible for growing a network of youth councils, coordinating youth voice opportunities, leading advocacy efforts, and tracking outcomes. The Director will support state-wide initiatives focused on better preparing older youth for permanency. This position may oversee a part-time Youth Council Specialist in the future.

Roles and Responsibilities (include but are not limited to):

- Growing a network of youth councils:
 - Support the development of local youth councils
 - Work collaboratively with local youth councils already operating in Texas
 - Host monthly leadership council meetings
 - Oversee grants and lead the expansion of youth councils across the state
 - Coordinate and lead annual leadership summit for youth
- Youth voice opportunities:
 - Host quarterly town hall meetings to gather feedback from youth and staff
 - Work with youth council members to vet, prepare, compensate, and support them for opportunities
 - Maintain distribution lists for all councils and group members
- Advocacy:
 - Work with our public affairs team to build a youth advocacy council who will engage with state leaders and legislators and develop appropriate materials for advocacy efforts
 - Coordinate legislative advocacy training for members of youth advocacy council
 - Develop an Independent Living Subcommittee that meets monthly with network providers who serve transitioning youth to better understand issues that arise from the field
- Outcomes Tracking:
 - Identify and launch a platform for youth and staff to facilitate communication, register for trainings, and collect outcome data through pre and post surveys
 - Track the number of youth served and report outcomes
- Other duties as assigned

Required Qualifications:

- First-hand experience with the child welfare system
- Demonstrated understanding of the state's complex foster care system including legacy and community-based care
- Demonstrated success leading projects and collaborations
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, including meeting facilitation and experience with public speaking
- Demonstrated understanding the importance of youth voice
- A strong desire to bring together state leaders to facilitate change
- Detail-oriented with strong project management skills and demonstrated ability to coordinate work and projects with various external parties
- Enjoys developing strong working relationships with various internal/external groups and values group participation

Preferred Qualifications:

- Four-year degree in social work, public health, public policy, education, or a related field is preferred. Experience and skills commensurate with degree may be considered
- Ability to successfully work independently and be a team player who enjoys working collaboratively with TACFS staff, Selfless Love Foundation staff, and other partners
- Goal oriented and a “quick study” who readily adapts as needed
- Ability and interest in working with transition age foster youth ages 13-23

This is a full-time position, with a flexible, accommodating work environment and some travel required. The position works remotely but must reside in Texas. Some nights and weekends are required to attend meetings and events. Compensation is commensurate with experience. This is a grant-funded position.

TACFS values our employees and aims to provide compensation and benefits commensurate with experience. TACFS is an equal opportunity employer. TACFS does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, non-disqualifying physical or mental disability, national origin, veteran status, or any other basis covered by appropriate law. All employment is decided based on qualifications, merit, and business need.

Please e-mail resume and cover letter to Megan Ransom, Chief of Staff at mransom@tacfs.org.