



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Healthy Start Fatherhood Initiative Coordinator

(Program Specialist III)

[Contract Position, 40 Hrs./Week]

Brief Description:

The Northeast Mississippi Healthy Start Initiative at the Mississippi State Department of Health is hiring a *Fatherhood Initiative Coordinator* (Contract position) to oversee the activities relative to fathers participating in the program. The program will seek candidates who reside in one of the following Mississippi counties: Chickasaw, Clay, Lee, Lowndes, Monroe, or Prentiss.

Position Summary:

The Healthy Start Fatherhood Initiative Coordinator is an individual dedicated to improving the lives of fathers and their families through community outreach, program development, and collaborative partnerships. The Fatherhood initiative coordinator will coordinate care, provide referrals and follow-up, and offer birth and parenting education to help fathers achieve appropriate perinatal and postpartum health awareness, support their partners, and positively impact their children's physical, social, and emotional development to achieve key milestones. The ideal candidate will possess strong communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills with a genuine commitment to promote positive fatherhood and improve maternal and infant health. The candidate will work closely with a team of dedicated public health professionals and report directly to the Healthy Start Program Director.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree (or higher) from an accredited college or university with preferable coursework in public health, health promotion, sciences, social sciences, or related field
- Experience working with men, fathers, and/or father figures
- Demonstrate commitment to developing and supporting fathers at individual and community levels
- Experience creating educational workshops, presentations, coaching individuals and/or groups
- Commitment to culturally responsive care, and understanding Fatherhood as a social determinant of health
- Experience working with racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse populations
- Strong written, verbal, interpersonal, organizational, and problem-solving skills
- Fluent in use of the internet and Windows-based computer systems
- Ability to work flexible hours, including occasional evening and weekend hours
- Valid Driver's License and reliable transportation

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Identify, recruit, and engage fathers to assess client requests for support and refer appropriately
- Communicate effectively with fathers, their partners, families, support systems, and agency staff
- Plan and conduct educational and community outreach events and activities
- Strengthen fatherhood engagement and retention through outreach, recruitment, and relationship building
- Document outreach attempts, referrals, and follow-up
- Attend and participate in various community-level outreach events
- Maintain knowledge of local human service agencies and community resources as well as fatherhood-specific resources
- Maintain a robust understanding of service area neighborhoods, assets, and challenges
- Meet with clinical staff and Healthy Start team members periodically to follow-up/touch points, and discuss participant enrollment, program evaluation, and identify areas of improvement
- Assist in collecting and preparing materials for evaluating the effectiveness of program
- Demonstrate a high level of professionalism
- Represent agency and the program at relevant community collaborations and/or events
- Additional duties or projects as assigned

Salary:

The rate of pay for this position is \$23.00/hour.

Application Requirements:

Candidates interested in applying this position may submit a cover letter and resume to Caroline Petty, Program Director via email at Caroline.Petty@msdh.ms.gov. Resumes will be accepted until **August 31, 2024**.

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