Position: Mental Health Strategist

Full-time and part-time candidates are encouraged to apply

About the TYP Collaborative:

The National Collaborative for Transformative Youth Policy (TYP) translates youth radical imagination into transformative policy and systems change by empowering young people and their communities. By merging policy, advocacy, and activism, we mobilize toward systemic change for youth affected by policy violence. Collaborating closely with these youth, the organization develops genuinely youth-centered policy analyses and proposals. Our goals are to enhance equitable access to current policy-making processes and to reshape those processes, shifting power, influence, and accountability to those directly impacted.

We prioritize dismantling oppressive systems and empowering marginalized youth. Our current focus areas include economic justice and mental health, but we aim to address all issues affecting the youth we support. Grounded in justice, joy, and equity, we emphasize cross-racial solidarity and uphold a radical, anti-hierarchical, and anti-capitalist approach throughout our organization, striving to embody the change we envision.

Please note that since TYP launched in 2024, we are still considered to be in our early-life stage as an organization, aka a startup. Hiring for this position is contingent on a pending mental health grant.

Our Mental Health Policy Priorities

TYP's core youth mental health goal is to translate a youth-defined vision of healing and wellbeing into concrete policy change at the federal, state, and local levels. Key policy priorities across TYP's mental health work are as follows:

- Put young people in decision-making roles at all levels of the mental healthcare system.
- Remove police from response to youth mental health emergencies.
- Promote inclusion of non-clinical modalities in mental healthcare, including the arts, cultural traditions, and spiritual healing practices.
- In conjunction with our economic justice policy work, promote effective, values-based training (including but not limited to Registered Apprenticeships) for youth peer support specialists and similar roles, improving their job quality, increasing access to their services, and making them reimbursable by Medicaid.
- Save and strengthen young people's access to clinical and non-clinical mental healthcare services through Medicaid.
- Expand access to providers who share cultural identities with youth seeking care and ensure care is provided in the languages each young person is most comfortable using.

Position Overview

The Mental Health Strategist will lead policy advocacy, youth, and community engagement with a focus on mental health. This role involves supporting youth leaders, mental health content expertise, policy recommendations and analysis, and participating in coalitions and partnerships centered on youth mental health policy.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Organizing and Advocacy:**
    - In collaboration with youth, staff, and partners, develop and implement strategic campaigns to advance mental health policy initiatives.
    - Coordinate youth organizing activities to build power around mental health issues.
    - Foster and strengthen relationships with community organizations, advocacy groups, coalitions, and stakeholders.
    - Attend conferences, presentations, retreats, and/or other mission-driven events. For full-time staff, this can range from 0-5 days per month.

- **Policy and Community Engagement:**
    - Bridge the gap between policy and practice by engaging with youth, policymakers, community leaders, and activists.
    - Advocate for policies that promote youth mental health.
    - Monitor, research, and analyze policy developments, and communicate news and recommendations in written publications, presentations, and informal updates
    - Promote cross-sector collaboration and knowledge exchange.
    - Facilitate occasional evening meetings with young leaders

- **Coalition Management:**
    - Lead, manage, and participate in mental health policy and advocacy coalitions.
    - Coordinate meetings, facilitate discussions, and ensure effective communication among coalition members.
    - Develop and maintain partnerships with diverse stakeholders to support coalition goals.

- **Training, Workshops, and Facilitation:**
    - Design and facilitate programs to raise awareness and understanding of youth mental health policy issues.
    - Create educational materials and resources that inform and equip community members to take action.

Qualifications:

- Commitment to TYP's mission, vision, values, and approach to collaborative work toward policy change.
- Substantive expertise in youth mental health acquired through policy advocacy, research, direct service, and/or lived experience.
- Commitment to improving the circumstances of young people with low incomes, young people of color, and other marginalized groups of youth, by collaborating with them and centering racial equity.
- Exceptional research, analysis, facilitation, and communication skills.
- Ability to synthesize information to persuasively and creatively communicate ideas to influence diverse audiences.
- Commitment to building and maintaining relationships and working collaboratively with a wide range of internal and external partners and stakeholders is required.
- Ability to strategize to effectively meet a co-created vision.
- Familiarity in understanding legislative and regulatory text, assessing political and budgetary contexts, and using data to assess the strengths and weaknesses of policy options.
- Demonstrated capacity to set priorities; work on multiple detail-oriented tasks, often on a time sensitive basis; and work effectively both individually and as part of a team in a primarily virtual context.
- Lived experience with TYP's core issue areas (economic justice and mental health), Spanish language fluency, or interest in communications are a plus.
- Fundraising, grantwriting, and grant management skills are a plus.
- Youth work, coalition building, or community organizing experience is strongly preferred.

Values-based Compensation

We are committed to the financial health of all our staff, **without regard for position or formal education**. Salaries are based on a combination of area median income, lived and work experience, personal expenses, and allowances **rather than degrees, job responsibilities, prior positions, or negotiation**. We experiment and iterate new ways of operating as a 501c3 navigating the nonprofit industrial complex. TYP offers exceptional benefits, including several health insurance options, dental/vision insurance, life and long-term disability insurance, a retirement program, flexible spending accounts, and unlimited paid time off (PTO).

Application Process:

Remote and DC metro-based candidates are welcome. Please name in your email submission whether your preference is to be full-time or part-time.

Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references. The cover letter should highlight the candidate's interest in working for TYP and why the candidate is passionate about youth engagement and mental health advocacy. Send applications to careers@typcollaborative.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

A reminder that hiring for this position is contingent on receipt of funding.