



Older Youth Program Internship (Unpaid)

Jackson County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that mobilizes community volunteers who act as advocates for children who have experienced abuse and/or neglect and are under the jurisdiction of the Jackson County Family Court. Our clients face multiple risks, including permanent separation from their birth families due to factors such as substance use disorders, untreated mental health, and intimate partner violence, all of which are often the rooted effects of poverty, community violence, and intergenerational trauma. To mitigate these risks, CASA Volunteer Advocates engage in fact-finding and relationship building with their child clients to make recommendations about all their needs. Collaboration with our child clients and their families is one of our most crucial values and what promotes excellent advocacy and just outcomes in a complex child welfare system.

Our model is simple: Every child client is assigned a Volunteer Advocate, who has been rigorously screened and extensively trained, and a guardian ad litem/staff attorney who advocates for their best interest. This team has access to staff social workers and child welfare experts who help them provide individualized advocacy grounded in evidence-based practices. Together, they assure the best possible outcomes for their children and increase the likelihood for families to be reunited.

At Jackson County CASA, we value our Volunteer Advocates, each other, and most importantly the children we serve. We work hard, love to learn, celebrate our successes, and support one another, all while having a ton of fun! **And best of all, Jackson County CASA is expanding its services and will soon represent all children in Jackson County under the Court's jurisdiction.** This means that we are doubling our service population and that's why we need you! With more staff and Volunteer Advocates, Jackson County CASA will be able to work toward its vision of ensuring every child involved with the Jackson County Family Court due to abuse or neglect will grow up in a safe and permanent home.

OUR VALUES

Connection: We believe that every person deserves meaningful relationships with supportive and loving adults, family, and community and preservation of their cultural heritage, traditions, and identity.

Respect: We value people of all backgrounds and identities and believe that every person deserves to be honored, included, and heard.

Collaboration: We recognize that effective progress and problem-solving require diverse voices, ideas, and perspectives.

Integrity: We honor our commitments to our children and the Court with transparency, honesty, and fairness.

Responsibility: We maximize our resources and support through accountability to our children, stakeholders, and community.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF OLDER YOUTH PROGRAM

Jackson County CASA understands that transitioning into adulthood can be a difficult journey and that the needs of the agency's older youth clients don't always fit into the parameters of what the foster care system is able to provide. In 2015, the organization established the Older Youth Program to provide extra support to current and former foster youth ages 14 to 26 to help them achieve self-sufficiency and independence. To do this, the Older Youth Program works closely with older youth clients to help them develop goals and a comprehensive transition plan that is unique to them and supplies guidance and expertise to the youth's Volunteer Advocates who help them execute their plan and reach their goals. Each older youth's plan includes locating a safe and stable environment to live, identifying trusted and supportive adults, creating goals for education and employment, among other needs.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Older Youth Program Manager

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Older Youth Program Intern will learn about Jackson County, Missouri's child welfare system and the obstacles faced by older youth who are under the court's jurisdiction. The Older Youth Intern will learn how to build professional rapport with youth, convene meetings and lead trainings, build and maintain community partnerships, create informational materials, and manage a common space accessed by the agency's older youth clients.

Some examples of required tasks that will be completed by the Older Youth Intern include:

- Visit youth in their court ordered placement (this may include the youth's home of origin, foster home, residential setting, or independent living setting).
- Complete thorough documentation of contact with youth and their service providers.
- Observe court hearings and case team meetings.
- Review relevant case documents and reports.
- Assist in designing case plans to facilitate a youth's support network and access to resources.
- Conduct research of child welfare best practice standards.

QUALIFICATIONS and ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

EDUCATION and EXPERIENCE

- Enrollment in an undergraduate or graduate social work or other human services program. This internship is only available to those who are seeking academic credit.
- Basic familiarity with office equipment and Microsoft Office Suite.
- Must have access to a personal computer or laptop and secure Wi-Fi.

ESSENTIAL QUALITIES

- Ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships in a diverse and inclusive environment.
- Promotes the dignity and well-being of all clients, staff, and volunteers.
- Exhibits high emotional intelligence.
- Commitment to Jackson County CASA's mission, values, and employee policies.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Must submit to and pass a criminal and child abuse and neglect background check.
- Must have flexibility to intern some nights and weekends.
- A valid driver's license and reliable personal transportation are required for this position. Frequent travel within Jackson County and surrounding areas may be required.

SCHEDULE and WORK LOCATION

The agency's business hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5pm. Most internship hours will take place between these hours, though some hours will occur in the evening and on weekends. Jackson County CASA is located at 2544 Holmes, Kansas City, Missouri 64108.

PHYSICAL and MENTAL DEMANDS and WORK ENVIRONMENT

- Prolonged periods of both standing, walking, and sitting at a desk and working on a computer will be required. Will be required to use hands and fingers frequently. Will climb and descend stairs, grasp, handle, feel, and operate objects, tools, and controls. Will be required to bend, kneel, and crouch; speak, hear, and read both in quiet, loud, private and public settings, both large and small. In-office and out-of-office public contact with people. Vision abilities include close and distant vision, and the ability to adjust focus.
- Must be able to lift and move up to 25 pounds.

- Some tasks may be required to be performed off-site.
- A great deal of in-person contact with people outside of the office environment will be required.
- The noise level of the office environment is often low to moderate. Position is subject to the usual office interruptions associated with providing service and performing multiple duties in an office environment.
- Proper grooming and hygiene are required. Attire for this position is generally business casual but there may be times that attire is professional, as determined by the setting.
- Reasonable accommodation will be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential duties and responsibilities.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please submit a detailed cover letter indicating your interest and qualifications for this position to hr@casakc.org. Resumes submitted without a cover letter will not be considered. No phone calls please.

OUR COMMITMENT

Jackson County CASA is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer committed to building and supporting a culturally diverse and inclusive work environment that values all staff members' backgrounds and perspectives. We encourage applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, marital status, disability or veteran status. We are committed to providing reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with disabilities.

This job description provides a general, but not comprehensive, list of essential responsibilities and qualifications required. It does not represent a contract of employment and Jackson County CASA reserves the right to change the job description and/or posting at any time without advance notice.