



Parent Mentor Position Description

“It only takes one person to believe in you, for you to believe in yourself.”

“As a parent mentor, I want to be the parent that I never had, and to help break the cycle of struggling families.”

AGENCY DESCRIPTION:

AFFEC is a nonprofit organization located in Eugene, Oregon. AFFEC’S mission is to find loving, permanent families for every waiting foster child.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

There are families in our community who are either at risk of having child welfare involvement or are already under DHS supervision. The Family Preservation Program is designed to provide these families with the support they need to build their skills as parents.

The Parent Mentor program works with families to bring about constructive change through support, guidance, instruction, and/or treatment. They are also able to assist families meet with success as children transition from foster care and residential programs. The ultimate goal is to maintain children safety in the home in order to spare them the trauma of separation.

The Parent Mentoring program matches trained Parent Mentors, who themselves may have a past involvement with DHS or have struggled in the past, with parents who are currently working with DHS Child Welfare, are currently involved with community services, or are simply feeling as if they are falling between the cracks. The purpose of the program is to support and match a family exiting homelessness/another community agency with a dedicated team, including a Parent Mentor. The team and family work together to a place of permanent housing, self-sufficiency, confidence and wellness where every member of the family is thriving.

AFFEC screens and trains each family to make sure they are appropriate, safe, communicative, eager and ready to be matched with a Parent Mentor. Family participation is 100% voluntary because we want parents to WANT to participate in our program, rather than feel pressured to, as may have been the case with many other community agencies they have been involved with. We want this to be their opportunity to take their lives and destiny into their own hands. The Parent Mentor role will be to offer support and guidance through this process.

A Parent Mentor can help families do the best job possible in raising their children. The program recognizes that safety, permanency and well-being, both in the home of origin or other placement, are essential to achieving a positive outcome for children. Without these essential family resources intact, a child’s successful transition to adulthood is doubtful.

Parent Mentors work together with families to educate and support them in the following areas:

Essential parenting skills
Hygiene issues
Appropriate housing
Advocacy and referral

Supervision
Non-physical means of discipline
Development of a budget

Position Summary: Focusing on the goal of enhancing and improving permanency outcomes for families, Parent Mentors are role models who provide guidance based on a combination of training and personal firsthand experience. Empowering and coaching parents through the process with DHS, the courts, and other family centered community partners is an important aspect of this work. The parent mentor works to lead by example; after the initial 12 months it is the hope that the parent feels more empowered by the skills they have learned from the mentor and are able to advocate for themselves and their family in a productive and healthy manner.

Parent Mentors Need To:

- **Have empathy/experience they are willing to share**
- **Communicate openly without judgment of the parent or youth in the home**
- **Have tolerance and respect for individual differences, opinions, and perspectives. Be respectful of low income families, as well as have a good understanding of different socioeconomic populations**
- **Familiarize themselves with local agencies that may be beneficial to their mentee/through trainings AFFEC offers**
- **Have a good understanding of acceptable personal and professional boundaries**
- **Maintain confidentiality**
- **Ability to communicate in a professional manner both verbally and in writing**
- **Ability to handle sensitive information and situations in a calm and professional manner**
- **Ability to work from a strengths-based perspective in motivating parents to make a change.**
- **Be able to provide an example of positive parenting through non-physical discipline.**

SKILLS/ QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

- Commit to at least 10 hours a month to their mentee
- Make a one year commitment to mentee
- Weekly check-ins
- Participate in Trainings
- Be at least 21-years-old
- Must pass a background check
- Be a resident in Lane County

CONTACT:

Family Preservation Director

Email: fampres@afamilyforeverychild.org

Phone: 541-343-2856