



JOB OPPORTUNITY BULLETIN

Harrison County affords equal job opportunity to all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin.

Today's Date: **May 22, 2026**

Date Listing Will Close: **May 29, 2026 - 5:00 PM**

The following department has a vacancy for qualified applicants in the following position:

Job Title: **Youth Peer Support Specialist**

Location /Department: **Youth Court – Juvenile Intervention Court**

Rate of Pay: **\$35,000 annually**

Position Summary and Responsibilities: **See Attached Job Description**

Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE)

HARRISON COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES/PERSONNEL

1080 23rd Avenue, Gulfport Courthouse, Second Floor

Phone: (228) 865-4194 Email: employment@co.harrison.ms.us Fax: (228) 865-4162

<https://harrisoncountymississippi.gov/>

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM

HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Youth Peer Support Specialist

DEPARTMENT: Youth Court – Juvenile Intervention Court **FLSA STAUS:** FT/non-exempt

REPORTS TO: Youth Court Administrator **POSITION CODE:** 8810

HIRE DATE:

This job description, Peer Support Specialist, should not be interpreted as all-inclusive. It is intended to identify the essential functions and minimum qualifications of this job. The incumbent(s) may be required to perform job-related responsibilities and tasks other than those stated in this job description. Nothing in this job description restricts management's right to assign or reassign job related responsibilities and tasks to this job at any time. Certain functions are understood to be essential; these include, but are not limited to: attendance, getting along with others, working a full shift, and dealing with and working under stress. Any essential function of this position will be evaluated as necessary. Should an incumbent/applicant be unable to perform the essential function or requirement due to a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), reasonable accommodation for the specific disability will be made for the incumbent/applicant when possible.

JOB OBJECTIVE: The Youth Peer Support Specialist's goal is to establish and maintain supportive, trusting relationships with participants in the Youth Court's Juvenile Intervention Court (JIC). The Youth Peer Support Specialist will support recovery by providing resources and services that reflect core values including the recognition of individual rights of self-determination, choice, shared decision-making and collaboration. Youth Peer Support Specialists assist youth to achieve personal recovery goals by promoting self-determination, personal responsibility, and empowerment in self-directed recovery.

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Navigate/link youth, and their families, to community resources such as social services, education and employment assistance, health services, etc.
- Assist youth participants in identifying their own individual warning signs of relapse and identifying and developing individual coping strategies and crisis prevention tools.
- Facilitate youth peer support groups including, but not limited to, relapse prevention, conflict resolution, developing healthy coping skills, problem solving, and health and wellness.
- Assist youth participants in regaining independence within the community and mastery over their own recovery process.
- Actively participates in JIC Team Staffing to determine the steps youth participants need to take in order to achieve their goals.
- Share personal experiences of recovery to build a sense of hope for juveniles at various stages in their recovery.
- Using a strength-based and trauma-informed approach, work collaboratively as a member of the treatment team with the individuals and other treatment team members to support juveniles in their treatment and recovery.
- Understand and comply with CPSS Code of Ethics.
- Safeguard confidential information in conformance with HIPAA guidelines.
- Participate in staff development and trainings, as required.

- Serves at the will and pleasure of the Court.
- Other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

- Knowledge and skills to teach and engage in basic problem solving strategies to support youth participants in self-directed recovery while modeling a sense of hope and resiliency.
- Must obtain DMH Certified Peer Support Specialist certification within 90 days of hire.
- Possess the ability to interact effectively as a JIC treatment team member, and with outside agencies and organizations and encourage youth/ young adults' participation in services and system activities.
- Organization skills, computer skills, and communication skills to provide oral and written reports.
- Ability to follow oral directions.
- Obtain WRAP Certification within 90 days of hire.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be self-identified as an individual who is or has been diagnosed with a mental health and/or alcohol/drug diagnosis, and involvement in the Juvenile Justice system as a youth and willing to sharing his/her lived experience in a helpful way to youth/young adults.
- Must have demonstrated a minimum of three (3) years in self-directed recovery; to help youth/young adults develop positive relationships with community partners.
- Prior experience working with youth and/or mentorship experience; supporting and empowering youth/young adults in developing life skills, obtaining services and resources.
- Prior experience in the mental health/substance use treatment field preferred, but not required; this helps to promote awareness and acceptance of behavioral health issues in an effort to reduce stigma.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

- GED or high school diploma

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Must have a valid Mississippi Driver's License. Must pass a criminal background check, including local police check as well as the Child Abuse registry.
- Must complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) hours Continuing Education Units (CEU) over two calendar year period in related field.

NOTE:

- This is a grant funded position for 4 years.

CONFIDENTIALITY IS MANDATORY when working with minors. All court proceedings, agreements/arrangements and documents must remain strictly confidential.

Salary: \$35,000 annually

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

The physical activities marked below are representative of those that will be required on a regular basis to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

	YES	NO
Work involves lifting, pushing, pulling or carrying 40 pounds or more		X
Work involves the operation of earth-moving equipment or commercial motor vehicles		X
Work involves the operation of non-commercial motor vehicles	X	
Work involves the operation of tools such as axes, shovels, sling blades, etc.		X
Work involves the operation of motorized equipment such as chain saws, power saws, jackhammers, lawn mowers or tractors		X
Work involves climbing or running		X
Work involves stooping, bending, twisting, or reaching out in unusual positions		X
Work above ground or floor level, such as on stools or ladders		X
Work in a relatively high average temperature over a long period of time		X
Work involves considerable physical exertion of the whole body over a long period of time		X
Work requires near vision (20 inches or less)	X	
Work requires distance vision (20 feet or more)	X	
Work involves the detection of color differences	X	
Work involves determination of the correct location of a sound, such as footsteps		X
Work involves hearing and understanding conversations or sounds	X	

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The environmental conditions marked below are common to this job.

	YES	NO
Outdoor Weather Conditions		X
Wet, Humid Conditions (non-weather)		X
Work Near Moving Mechanical Parts		X
Work in High, Precarious Places		X
Fumes or Dust		X
Toxic or Caustic Chemicals		X
Extreme Heat (non-weather over 90° F.)		X
Low Noise (e.g., business office)	X	
Moderate Noise (e.g., light motorized equipment such as lawnmowers)	X	
Loud Noise (e.g., jackhammer, heavy motorized equipment)		X