



# HomePlate Job Opening

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POSITION: Outreach Worker  
PROGRAM: HomePlate  
REPORTS TO: Lead Outreach Worker  
FLSA STATUS: Salary, 1 FTE

HomePlate ([homeplateyouth.org](http://homeplateyouth.org)) is a grassroots non-profit social service agency that works with young people experiencing homelessness or housing instability in Washington County (ages 12- 24). HomePlate operates 3 drop-in center evenings, 1 drop-in center day , as well as a street outreach program 5 days a week. At drop-in, HomePlate offers hot meals, showers, resources, referrals, recreation, and positive interactions with adults. Located in Hillsboro and Beaverton, HomePlate provides services to over 500 youth per year. Our mission is to support the positive development of young people experiencing homelessness or housing instability through community building, education, access to services and resources, and youth empowerment. HomePlate successfully connects community members and at-risk youth together in relationship in order to engage youth towards meeting their education, housing, employment, medical, and dental needs, etc. Applicants need to be able to build authentic relationships and work effectively with youth in homeless situations regardless of their backgrounds, personal histories, and household composition, and be willing and able to engage people on the streets, in their homes, and in our service facility. We are looking for someone who has great passion for youth and young adults.

## Overview

The Outreach Worker will provide a consistent demonstration of HomePlate's values and mission in each contact with an unstably housed young person. Build and nourish mutual relationships, trust and support to promote the strengths and capabilities of young people as they work to obtain permanent housing. Bilingual in Spanish is a requirement.

## Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide direct outreach services to young people experiencing homelessness in Washington County. Outreach involves going to transit centers, parks, skate parks, forested areas, and other locations where young people congregate. Effective outreach often requires working non-traditional hours. (Typical schedule is 12:30-8:30pm M & Th 9:30-5:30pm Tu, W, & Fri)
- Initiate and support processes that reduce harm to homeless individuals and promote transition into permanent housing, including by supporting access to needed services, employment, and housing opportunities.
- Emphasize a strength-based approach as HomePlate supports homeless individuals in their efforts to move into stability.
- Build and maintain collaborative relationships with landlords, police, social service agencies, businesses, and neighborhood organizations.
- Attend drop-in nights Monday and Thursday from 6-8pm
- Build rapport with youth, find out needs, case plan and refer them to community resources
- Identify and maintain a regular presence in areas where youth live and congregate such as public transit stations, parks, forested areas, coffee shops, shopping areas, and HomePlate.
- Provide street-based intervention, counseling and case management services to youth including safety education, risk reduction, family mediation, and appropriate community referrals.
- Maintain current information on the availability and status of community programs and resources that are necessary and relevant to the youth's safety and education. Advocate for and obtain services for youth through various community supportive services. Includes educating youth about self-advocacy, eligibility and other relevant information, as well as assisting them in accessing services.
- Facilitate the meetings and activities for youth who are transitioning out of youth services.
- Support the positive engagement and relationship building of youth and volunteers at drop-in.
- Provide oversight and guidance to Outreach volunteers & interns.

- Accurately document all services as required by program procedures. Maintain and update all necessary databases for tracking youth progress, program objectives and outcomes, and contractual and licensing requirements. This includes youth files as well as ancillary databases and tracking systems.
- Produce timely and accurate summaries of services for monthly and quarterly grant reports.
- Practice and model best practices with regard to gender-specific programming, positive youth development, cultural competency, and case management.
- Attend all program meetings, as well as community liaison meetings as assigned by program supervisor. Model staff empowerment principles in the workplace and practice proactive problem-solving skills in a service team environment.
- Work closely with other Outreach Workers to maintain safety protocols while conducting outreach activities.
- Participate in team building staff meetings and organizational functions.

**Knowledge/Skills/Abilities:**

- Experience building trust relationships and collaborative efforts with diverse individuals and organizations
- Experience working with homeless young people; outreach and local Washington County social service knowledge is a plus.
- Demonstrated knowledge of street youth population including knowledge of outreach, needs, services and systems of care.
- Commitment to non-judgmental, non-violent and holistic responses to those in need.
- Must be self-motivated and work well in unstructured, sometimes chaotic, team environment.
- Ability to work effectively with and support others in a team environment and independently.
- Critical thinking skills to make sound decisions independently.
- Strong commitment to "meeting youth where they are" and use of this principal to assist youth in attaining their employment goals.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks requiring excellent organizational skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills. Must be able to collaborate with partners outside of the agency. Ability to use diplomacy during difficult circumstances.
- Ability to interact appropriately with people from diverse socio-economic, racial, ethnic and varying cultural groups.
- Ability to work a substantial number of hours outdoors, and on your feet.
- Familiarity with computers and basic software use is required. Ability to work with or learn computer data entry programs and familiarity with Office Suite software. Fluency in social media websites, e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Proficiency in Spanish is a preferred.
- Ability to pass a criminal background check
- Oregon Drivers License

**Pay and Benefits**

Salary: \$35,000. Employer paid 79% for medical & 100% for dental benefits for employee and 50% covered for dependents, \$500 HRA; paid time off.

HomePlate values diversity in its workforce and is an equal opportunity employer. Candidates of color are encouraged to apply.

**To Apply:** Send a résumé, application questions (below), and a cover letter that clearly states how your background and skills/abilities make you well suited for the position. Email your application materials to: [jobs@homeplateyouth.org](mailto:jobs@homeplateyouth.org). Because of the volume of applications, please understand that we will not be able to respond to email or phone inquiries, but all applicants will receive responses regarding the status of the application process. Applications will be welcome until job is filled.

- Every duty in the job description is based on having solid rapport and trust with the youth. Give an example of your success building relationships and collaborative efforts with and among diverse populations.
- What interests you most about this position?
- What qualities do you think are necessary to make a success of this job? Why do you believe you hold them?

- What do you believe the barriers to ending homelessness are? What do you believe is the reason that homelessness exists in Washington County?
- What does the following mean to you: “Relationships rather than rules - because in the end it’s about people.”

Thank you for your interest in HomePlate.