
Rise Above CO: Denver Teen Action Council Coordinator

Position Description | April 2021

Organization Background

Rise Above Colorado is a drug misuse prevention organization that measurably impacts teen perceptions and attitudes about the risks of substance misuse to help youth make empowered, healthy choices. Our vision is to empower teens to lead a life free of drug misuse and addiction.

Rise Above Colorado implements prevention strategies targeted for youth aged 12-17 to measurably impact attitudes (e.g. perception of harm, perception of peer use, etc.), knowledge (e.g. appropriate and inappropriate use of Rx drugs, teen brain science, etc.), and skills (e.g. media literacy, health decision-making, refusal skills, etc.). Rise Above achieves these objectives through direct-to-youth communications, peer-to-peer engagement and resource delivery by youth-serving partner organizations.

Position Overview

Rise Above Colorado, in partnership with Denver Public Schools and Denver Public Health, is embarking on a youth civic engagement initiative to empower youth to address pressing behavioral health issues in their communities. The centerpiece of this initiative is the formation of a Denver Teen Action Council, a diverse group of middle and high school youth aged 12-17 who will come together as a vehicle to launch youth-led behavioral health promotion projects across the city. The Denver Teen Action Coordinator will build relationships with students and staff across Denver Public Schools and other youth prevention initiatives in the city to help recruit, select and facilitate this inaugural group of Denver youth.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Position Reports to Manager of Youth Engagement; receives implementation support and mentorship from Prevention Trainer at DPS
- Part-time staff position (15 hours/week; \$15/hour)
- With guidance and support from Rise Above staff and its Denver partners, the Coordinator enables the development and execution of the Denver Teen Action Council (DTAC) and #LeadTheChange-Denver youth civic engagement initiative.
- Coordinator is primary contact with DPS school staff (administration, counselors, Substance Use Prevention Specialists and teachers/club leaders) to promote DTAC recruitment and youth participation. Much of the job will involve connecting with DPS staff and students on school grounds.
- Role includes, but not limited to DTAC recruitment, formation and facilitation, including on-site support for meeting facilitation and support for DTAC implementation of group and school-based projects.
- With support from Manager of Youth Engagement, has opportunity to facilitate components of #LeadTheChange youth civic engagement resource with Denver Teen Action Council
- Collaborates with Director of Prevention Education on #LeadTheChangeCO Action Team content
- Provides input for content development and promotions via #LeadTheChange-Denver social media platforms

- Participates in monthly project calls with RAC staff and participating Denver partners (Denver Public Schools and Denver Health)

Qualifications

- Ideal candidate will have been a student of Denver Public Schools within the past 3 years with an understanding of the culture and diversity that exists within the school district.
- A strong commitment to equity and inclusion — including creating/facilitating equitable and inclusive programming for young people
- Direct experience, participating in, leading, or coordinating youth groups or programs
- Previous experience in group social media platform management and teen engagement is a plus
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work with people at all levels of an organization, including school administration, program staff, and teens
- A self-starter with excellent work ethic and passion to make a difference
- Must be able to work independently and as a collaborative team member
- Position can be partially remote; regular travel in Denver expected, as is periodic evenings and weekends for Teen Council meetings; Rise Above will provide mileage reimbursement for personal vehicles or public transportation passes
 - Position may be adapted to fully remote as necessitated by COVID-19 safety protocols

Compensation

- This is a part-time, year-round position for approximately 15 hours per week, paying \$15 per hour. As a part-time position there are no health benefits offered. Rise Above will provide mileage reimbursement for personal vehicles or public transportation passes for Coordinator to get to on-site meetings in Denver or the Rise Above offices in Broomfield.

To Apply

Submit a cover letter and résumé, with references, to Ben Edwards, Manager of Youth Engagement (ben@riseaboveco.org). The position will remain open until filled, with priority consideration given to applications received by May 10, 2021.