



Support Services Specialist / Social Worker - Van Go, Inc.

About Us:

Van Go, Inc. is an arts-based nonprofit organization providing comprehensive, 'earn while you learn' employment programs and social services to Douglas County youth, ages 14-24. Using art as the vehicle, Van Go provides employability and life skills training, health and wellness education, and social service supports to inspire our youth to create their own visions of success. Van Go's nationally recognized programs put art to work, meet young people where they are, and spark what is possible through creative expression. **Our mission is to inspire young lives through art, work, and community.**

Our Core Values - At Van Go, we:

- *Believe in the power of art*
- *Create a safe environment for self-expression*
- *Prioritize overall health and well-being*
- *Encourage self-empowerment*
- *Nurture community and a caring "home away from home"*
- *Inspire hope for the future*

Position Summary:

The Support Services Specialist is supervised by the Support Services Director. This position is a highly dedicated, youth-focused, experienced mental health professional who inspires and supports young people, ages 14-24, in attaining their visions of success through the provision of meaningful work experiences, job readiness training, career exploration and guidance, and support services. This position works collaboratively with Van Go Program Staff to administer comprehensive youth programming aligned with Van Go's mission, with a specific focus on providing strengths-based social service supports, case management services, and essential employability and life skills training.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

The Support Services Specialist is responsible for case management, provision of social service support, oversight of youth participants, and other duties as assigned.

- Coordinate and implement social service supports for youth in all Van Go programs (and alumni, as needed) to include screening/assessment, developing goals and focused treatment interventions, and providing crisis stabilization, and short-term counseling services to youth participants and their families.
- Collaborate with a multi-disciplinary team to address needs of program participants and implement services that will support positive outcomes for youth in employment and educational settings, consistent with Van Go's mission, philosophical principles, and ethical standards.

- Ensure continuity of care in the provision of comprehensive support services and facilitate the coordination of service delivery with other professionals in the community; provide youth and their families with resources and referrals to appropriate community partner agencies.
- Develop, coordinate, and implement individual and group self-care, wellness, and Life Skill curriculum using evidence-based practices to meet the needs/interests of youth participants in all Van Go programs.
- Develop, implement, and monitor Individual Life Plan (ILP) goals for all JAMS program participants, to include assisting with educational support (i.e. academic tutoring), transition plans for graduating seniors, and 'soft skill' development.
- Coordinate all aspects of Van Go's Pre-Employment Preparation Program (PEPP) and Van Go & Co. as directed by the Support Services Director and in partnership with the Program Team.
- Coordinate various activities of the JAMS 'Go Healthy' initiative, including facilitating healthy snacks, Family Dinners, and Health Assessments.
- Provide appropriate coordination, input, and assistance with timely completion of all agency and grant/funder reporting requirements, to include program participant case notes and data entry and analysis, conducting federal grant enrollment procedures, and providing required follow-up services on all youth participants.
- Assist the Program Team with ongoing implementation of all Van Go Programs, with supervision from Support Services Director.
- Provide field instruction to BSW student interns, as directed by Support Services Director.
- Attend regular program meetings and provide progress reports necessary to ensure consistent communication and efficiency in program service delivery.
- Assure the health, safety, and well-being of program participants by enforcing all rules, regulations, and safety procedures as outlined by Van Go, and create an encouraging community that builds pride and self-esteem.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in Social Work, or Master's degree in Counseling, Psychology or an applicable Social Sciences related field from an accredited institution.
- Must have a current and unrestricted License to practice in the State of Kansas (LMSW, LCSW, LMLP, LCP, LPC, LCPC)
- Demonstrated at least three (3+) years of relevant clinical training and/or work experience (or any combination of education and experience which would provide an equivalent background) in the areas of assessment, case management services, resource acquisition, crisis intervention, outreach activities and the ability to coordinate these services with other community partner agencies.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively deliver educational curriculum to youth with varied learning styles and abilities.
- Knowledge of Douglas County community resources, the ability to work as part of a comprehensive community mental health team.
- A commitment to uphold and implement Van Go's mission, educational philosophy, code of ethics, professional standards and equity values is expected, along with the belief in the transformative power of creative expression.
- Ability to engage with youth of different ages and diverse backgrounds effectively and enthusiastically, and a sensitivity to and appreciation for the population Van Go serves in our programs.

- Adaptability, analysis, collaboration, personal impact, dependability, safety awareness, organizational sensitivity, professionalism, and teamwork are characteristics central to this position.
- Must have the ability to listen, be patient, communicate information and ideas so others will understand, build relationships, inspire creativity, be encouraging, respectful, and resilient.
- Ability to prioritize, multi-task, effectively manage competing demands, work proactively, meet deadlines, and have strong attention to detail.
- Competency with software including Microsoft Office, Google Suite, and case management databases.
- Knowledge of WIOA youth programs preferred.

Additional Conditions/Requirements:

The Support Services Specialist has a smaller caseload size to allow for comprehensive, intentional service delivery, no on-call responsibilities, and no home-based services. The selected candidate must pass a series of pre-employment background checks as a condition of employment. Reliable transportation, a valid and unrestricted driver's license, clean driving record, and proof of insurance are required. There are no known physical limitations or considerations to perform this job successfully. The work hours for this position will be appropriate to the needs of the program, program participants and agency, with some evenings and weekends for events and to meet deadlines. Position reports to the Support Services Director.

Van Go is committed to maintaining a culture of integrity, kindness, dignity, and respect. Van Go requires every employee to conduct themselves in a positive, collaborative, and professional manner at all times.

Compensation/Benefits:

The Support Services Specialist position is full time, salaried, and exempt. Compensation discussions are a part of the interview process and commensurate with education, experience, and demonstrated skills/traits. The wage scale for this position starts at \$42,000. Van Go is committed to a healthy work-life balance and our employees enjoy competitive pay, attractive benefits, and a collaborative, creative and rewarding work environment.

Van Go, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion. Van Go, Inc. believes that equity, inclusion, diversity, and antiracism are essential to our mission. We want our Van Go community to benefit from varied ideas, world views, and personal experiences. We stand against all forms of discrimination and are committed to creating an environment grounded in our equity values. Van Go welcomes everyone.

Applications are encouraged from all persons regardless of their race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, medical/physical/mental condition, pregnancy/childbirth and related medical condition, age, marital status, or veteran status.

Application Procedure:

Please submit the following to us@van-go.org for consideration:

- Cover letter
- Resume
- Contact information for three professional references

Applications will be reviewed upon receipt and accepted until the position is filled.