



Wellness Coach
LEAVES afterschool program
Germantown, Philadelphia

Background

GrassROOTS Community Foundation (GCF) is a public health and social action organization. We invest in our community members' collective well-being, so that they can use their health and energy to transform themselves, their families and communities. We support, develop and scale health and wellness programs for women and girls, particularly those who are impoverished. We also advocate for policies and practices that reduce disparities and foster equity.

Our mission is to create a world where ALL girls grow up to be healthy women. We focus on women and girls with an experience of poverty.

About LEAVES

The LEAVES curriculum is a part of GrassROOTS' continuum of community health programming that corresponds to girls' developmental needs from childhood to adulthood. We call this curriculum LEAVES because leaves are the energy source for trees; they are essential for a tree's long-term health. Similarly, what occurs in early adolescence greatly shapes health and wellbeing in adulthood. Evidence shows that impoverished Black and Latina adolescent girls (10-14) are at high risk for poor physical, mental, and sexual health¹. Failure to nurture girls' caregiving and residential environments to support healthy development at this crucial stage contributes to high incidences of obesity, depression, anxiety, and risky sexual behaviors, all of which diminish economic and social mobility throughout life course, especially for females. This curriculum will address these document health and wellness disparities in a 12-week intense, but fun wellness curriculum that draws upon and expand the World Health Organization's definition of health: "not just the absence of illness, rather a state of holistic well-being." This session will serve to link the girl's individual action to their caregiving and neighborhood communities' well-being. LEAVES is design to improve health and well-being of adolescent girls through and activity based curriculum, supporting and guiding girls to become agents of health change for themselves, their families, and their communities. The facilitation by "Wellness Coaches" will be achieved through teaching fact based health knowledge, and then coaching the girls in how to apply health skills. These skills will provide support to the girls, allowing them to live a healthy lifestyle and thus cultivating a healthy environment for both themselves and the community in which they reside.



Curriculum Design

Our curriculum focuses on four key factors linked to, and essential for, strong health and well-being of adolescent girls: **Physical Health** (healthy eating and sustained physical activity); **Mental Health** (Self-efficacy, self-confidence, and positive self-image); **Sexual Health** (informed sexual decision-making); and **Economics of Health** (relationship between economic structures and individual and community health behaviors). The curriculum includes goal making, interactive experiences, guest speakers, journaling, dynamic discussions, and role-playing, all aimed at teaching adolescent girls about interrelated dimensions of these four areas of health. The LEAVES curriculum is based on social-cognitive theory (SCT) ², integrated with four African-centered principles: Truth, Order, Balance, and Reciprocity. The LEAVES curriculum makes the principles of Truth, Order, Balance, and Reciprocity “come alive” for the girls. Each lesson builds on each other and principles are taught sequentially to arm girls first with factual knowledge, (TRUTH), then skills, (ORDER), and then the critical thinking skills (BALANCE) needed to become actively engaged in their families. Girls will apply all previous lessons to help them influence their family’s well-being and potentially impact the community’s health, (RECIPROCITY). The overarching goal is to help girls make the connection between their individual health (and lack thereof) to that of their families and community’s. During the final weeks of the curriculum the girls will apply what they have learned by developing a social action/advocacy project that addresses a specific structural or environmental inequity within their communities. A girl who has completed the LEAVES curriculum will have an enhanced positive self-image, increased skills to prepare healthy meals, improve awareness of life-long benefits of physical activity, increased knowledge of healthy sexual decision-making and more insights into the relationship between their individual health and her personal economic environment.

Job Summary:

GrassROOTS Community Foundation (GCF) is seeking to hire 8 Wellness Coaches (Physical, Mental, Sexual and Economics of Health) who will administer our public health and wellness curriculum to adolescent girls Germantown, Philadelphia. Coaches will work in either a school setting or a community organization. In this role, Wellness Coach will be responsible for facilitating health and wellness workshops and for helping youth achieve the highest level of wellness. Coaches will also work closely with the girls, their family and the community to execute social action work in their community. In addition, coaches will work closely with their fellow coaches, The GrassROOTS team including Program Coordinator, Jeanelle Lawson and Research Director Dr. Brian Lawton.

Position Summary/Qualifications:

Primary roles and responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Lead one large group wellness session per week
- Facilitate and/or support two small group sessions per week
- Participate in the research and data collection processes.
- Participate in monthly training and debriefing meetings



Key Qualifications

- Associate or bachelor's degree from an accredited 4-year college or university preferred, but not necessary.
- A demonstrated passion for working with young urban youth and a demonstrated belief in GCF's mission of public health and social action
- Previous experience working with community organizations
- Superlative analytic, organizational and writing skills
- Ability to effectively communicate with diverse stakeholders (church, parents, adult caregivers, staffers, African American, Latinos and whites)
- A strong commitment to personal health. Physically active.
- At least 2 years working in an educational setting

Work Performance

- GCF will require a background check and may require a drug screen for this position.
- Confidentiality is critical in this role
- GCF will require signed confidentiality agreement.

Additional Information

Hours: 6-8 hours weekly; Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 3:30-5:30pm

Functions: Lead and facilitate wellness sessions

Industry: Not-for-Profit

Compensation: Competitive/commensurate with experience. GCF is an equal opportunity employer (EEO/AA/M/F/D/V).

Women and people of color are encouraged to apply.

Pay Schedule: Time sheets must be submitted bi-weekly. Will be paid Thursdays.

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