



128 Union Street, Suite 105 · New Bedford, MA 02740 · Tel: 508-994-9625 · Fax: 508-994-9667

Mobilizing people, partnerships, and resources to catalyze change that strengthens the communities we serve.

**Job Title:** NBCCC/Patch Family Advocate

**Program/Grant Category:** NBCCC/Patch

**Reports to:** Director of New Bedford Community Connections Coalition

**Work Schedule:** 25 hours per week. Occasional evening and weekend hours may be required.

**Hourly Rate:** \$25/hr

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**Summary:** United Way of Greater New Bedford (UWGNB) fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in the nine communities it serves. We are actively involved in our communities, supporting organizations and strategically creating initiatives and offering services where gaps exist. Every United Way of Greater New Bedford staff member serves as an ambassador for the organization, demonstrating a culture of fundraising, service and volunteer engagement.

**Position Summary:**

The Family Advocate is a part-time position whose function is to assist Patch\* case workers with family support as part of the New Bedford Community Connections Coalition\* (NBCCC) team. The position will work to ensure all families involved with the New Bedford Department of Children and Families (DCF) Patch units as well as other vulnerable families in the Greater New Bedford Area have access to the resources they need to build and strengthen their parental capacity.

*\* Patch: "Patch" means "neighborhood" in England and this term captures the intension of the Patch program to create an environment where neighbors take care of neighbors. This joint venture pairs DCF with United Way to provide community resources and is co-located at both DCF and United Way.*

*\* NBCCC: The primary mission of NBCCC is to take a leadership role within the City of New Bedford in facilitating collaborative strategies to build neighborhood-based networks of family support to prevent child abuse and neglect, strengthen families, and build healthier communities.*

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Work with the NBCCC Director, Patch teams, and the community to identify family support services and community based prevention and intervention resources for Patch neighborhood families
- Participate in and/or conduct home visiting to ensure that Patch involved families are provided with a linkage to the Family Resource & Development Center (FRDC) and other community resources, parent education, and advocacy support
- Attend supervised family visitation or meet with families before or after supervised visits to implement "Nurturing Parenting Skills for Families in Supervised Visitation" program when requested
- Ensure that families are knowledgeable of advocacy supports available to them
- Be available to Patch staff and involved families for individual consultation as needed



United Way  
of Greater New Bedford

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- Work with the NBCCC Director, NBCCC Advisory Board, and NBCCC subcommittees to create opportunities for parents and families to engage in strengthening family support and involvement in coalition activities
- Support the Patch DCF staff and NBCCC on special projects that increase protective factors and build self-sufficiency in families
- Work closely with the NBCCC Director and Patch team to develop data collection tools that will help identify gaps in services and supports for Patch involved families and other at-risk families in the community.

#### **Desired Skills and Abilities**

- Energetic self-starter
- Highly organized
- Excellent oral and written communications skills
- Ability to problem solve and access resources in a complex environment
- Strong principles and approaches that promote family support and parent engagement
- Skill in developing parent leadership
- Experience in needs assessments, program planning, and outcomes measurements
- Demonstrated ability to manage multiple projects, simultaneously
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with diverse populations and a cross sector of the community
- Bilingual Spanish/English fluency strongly preferred

#### **Requirements:**

Associate's Degree, or equivalent job experience, with at least 1-3 years of experience working with at-risk families and communities. Familiarity with community resources for families with children and State agencies for health and human service provisions for families and children, particularly DCF.

A valid driver's license and personal vehicle is required as well as the ability to pass a background check. Interested candidates should email a resume and thoughtful cover letter to [liveunited@unitedwayofgnb.org](mailto:liveunited@unitedwayofgnb.org). Please list subject as "Family Advocate".