



## Social Worker

### **About Safe Passage Project**

*Safe Passage Project provides free lawyers to 800 child refugees who are being deported.*

Many children embark alone on the long and dangerous journey to the United States seeking protection. They are fleeing trauma such as gang violence and recruitment, abuse, and sexual assault. In 2017, the government reported that they apprehended over 40,000 immigrant children seeking entry to the United States. Closer to home, the New York Immigration Court has more than 15,000 cases involving children on its docket.

Immigrant children are not afforded free legal representation by the government, regardless of their age. As a result, more than half of immigrant children must go through immigration proceedings without the aid of a lawyer. Unable to effectively argue their claim for the legal protections they may qualify for, more than 80% of these children are issued deportation orders. To many, this means returning to the danger from which they fled.

This is where [Safe Passage Project](#) steps in, providing free legal assistance to these refugee and immigrant children in New York City and Long Island who are facing removal despite their strong legal claim to stay in the United States.

Safe Passage Project is growing rapidly; we are currently the largest provider of free lawyers to immigrant children in New York State. Since 2015, our funding has increased more than sevenfold.

Check out recent press on our work in [The New Yorker](#) and [Glamour](#).

*Safe Passage Project is an equal opportunity employer. Women, people of color, LGBTQ people, veterans and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.*

### **About the Role**

You will be joining a small team of social workers within a pro-bono legal aid organization and will be responsible for the planning and coordination of non-legal services for youth clients and their families. Taking a trauma-informed approach, you will meet with clients, provide referrals and advocacy, give insight and support to the legal team, and help ensure basic needs are met so that the legal mission of Safe Passage Project can be fulfilled. This role is an exciting opportunity for an MSW who wants to support immigrant youth through the stressful and confusing US

immigration system. You will be supported by and report to Supervising Social Worker Samantha Norris.

**Your responsibilities will include:**

- Develop and maintain relationships with social service providers, schools, local government agencies, and community organizations in order to facilitate referrals for youth;
- Conduct social service needs intakes and psychosocial assessments;
- Engage in continuous outreach with young people and their families to recommend services, treatment options, and to ensure services are received;
- Collaborate with both staff and *pro bono* attorneys representing Safe Passage Project youth;
- Maintain client files and case notes using the Salesforce database system;
- Assist with grant reporting requirements, including collecting and maintaining required data;
- Work closely with the Supervising Social Worker on the most sensitive and/or complex cases to support their advancement;
- Provides task management support or supervision (if SIFI-certified) to MSW students during their field placement;
- Together with the social work team, conduct trainings on the benefits and services available to unaccompanied immigrant youth and on vicarious trauma for Safe Passage staff.

**We're looking for someone who is:**

- **A GO-GETTER** – You take action on behalf of your clients and are willing to do what needs to get done. You are a doer who is not intimidated by challenges.
- **EMOTIONALLY MATURE** – You are a calm presence for young clients and their families in their sometimes fast-paced, intense and stressful situations. You take a measured, empathetic, approach to your work with others. You take care of yourself emotionally and avoid burnout.
- **COLLABORATIVE AND MISSION ALIGNED**– You care deeply about your role as a social worker, while also recognizing that the core mission of the organization is to support refugee and immigrant families in their immigration cases. You work collaboratively with attorneys and are seek to learn more about immigration law.
- **TRAMA INFORMED** – You practice a trauma-informed model of care with youth and families. You are self-reflective and continually improving your skills in this area.

**Qualifications:**

- Master's Degree in Social Work from an accredited university;

- LMSW or intent to pursue LMSW during the first six months of employment;
- Written and verbal Spanish language fluency;
- Experience working with diverse communities, preferably with immigrant youth;
- Knowledge of the social, educational, health, and other services available to immigrant youth in the New York City metropolitan area;
- Ability to work independently as well as collaboratively on an interdisciplinary team in a fast-paced, high-intensity environment;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office, including Word and Excel, and G Suite.

### **Compensation & Benefits**

Safe Passage Project offers competitive salary and benefits, commensurate with experience and skills. In addition, Safe Passage Project offers a flexible work environment, including the opportunity to work from home, flexible hours, unlimited time off, and 12 weeks paid family leave. The team works on a beautiful campus at a terrific office location in Tribeca and every employee has access to support for professional development. Reflected in our diverse Senior Leadership team, Safe Passage Project is proud to have a top-down, bottom-up commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### **Apply**

Please apply at <https://rework.applytojob.com/apply/83wnBnZtuj/Social-Worker>

Priority will be given to those applications submitted by Friday, February 22th at 9am EST; therefore, we encourage you to submit yours soon! Candidates that meet the minimum experience will be invited to complete a set of short answer questions.

If you have any questions about the role, please feel free to email [pvesnaver@koyapartners.com](mailto:pvesnaver@koyapartners.com)