

**RESPONSE  
FOR TEENS**



## Call for Teaching Artists & Wellness Workers

### About Response for Teens and the Wellness & Expressive Arts Initiative

JCFS Chicago [Response for Teens](#) provides a safe, welcoming space where teens can receive support to deal with life's challenges, meet new friends, and feel free to be themselves. Response for Teens offers mental health counseling, community education, and leadership development to strengthen the wellbeing and empowerment of youth and young adults.

Response is excited to announce a new **Wellness and Expressive Arts Initiative** (or WEXi, for short), coming in April 2022.

WEXi is an opportunity for young people to regain a sense of resilience, community, and meaning by engaging in a variety of group activities that promote wellness. Response will offer a calendar full of after-school and Sunday activities where young people can join with others to relax, have fun, be social, and express themselves – an important outlet to deal with feelings, be authentic and to feel seen.

Activities will include informal drop-in opportunities, one-time activities, and short-term groups. Here's a sample of what might be included: restorative yoga, creative journaling, breathing exercises, vision board creation, movement & mindfulness, 2D & 3D arts, theater games, drumming circles, movie discussions, stress management during finals, and more. All activities will be free of charge to teen participants and will take place at the Response for Teens space in Skokie.

### About the Teaching Artist/Wellness Worker Position

Response is seeking enthusiastic, creative, and experienced artist instructors and wellness workers who have a passion for sharing their craft with teens and young adults. Please note that the Wellness and Expressive Arts Initiative is **not** meant to provide clinical therapeutic services to teen participants, but rather, provide a suite of wellness-based activities with a low barrier to entry. Teens will not be expected to do any mental health intakes or meet any diagnostic criteria to participate; the hope is that all interested teens can participate in the activities to gain a sense of community and wellbeing after a turbulent and traumatic couple of years.

Teaching artists and wellness workers will design expressive arts & wellness workshops and facilitate them at the Response for Teens space and will be compensated for facilitation time. They will work in partnership with the Wellness Coordinator, who provides support in outreach to teen participants, building rapport, organizing supplies, setting up workshop spaces, and other administrative duties.

## Desired Qualifications

A qualified candidate will have professional experience in the arts and/or wellness, as well as previous teaching or facilitation experience. Preference will be given to candidates who have experience working directly with teenagers, and are comfortable with the flexibility, humility, and creativity that working with teens from all backgrounds entails. A successful candidate will bring energy and inspiration to our teens, feel comfortable collaborating with adults and teens alike, and perhaps most importantly, have a passion for connecting youth through group activities. Please note that formal experience as a licensed art therapist is desirable, but not required for this position.

## Terms of Employment

Teaching artists are hired as independent contractors and receive \$75 - \$135 per hour of instructional time, depending on experience. Material costs will be covered by Response, to be discussed upon contracting.

Please note that yoga, dance, and other movement instructors will need to provide their own liability insurance, with JCFS Chicago named as a certificate holder.

## How to Apply

To apply, please fill out and send the attached application and a copy of your resume to Kat Stuehrk Talo at [katstuehrktalo@jcfs.org](mailto:katstuehrktalo@jcfs.org).

Applications will be reviewed and accepted on a rolling basis.

For more information about the program and the teaching artist position, please email Kat at [katstuehrktalo@jcfs.org](mailto:katstuehrktalo@jcfs.org) or call her at 847-475-5477.

## Wellness & Expressive Arts Initiative (WEXi) Teaching Artist/Wellness Worker Application

1. Visual artists, please provide three samples of your work or a link to your portfolio below. All other applicants, feel free to provide any relevant publications or portfolio information, or skip ahead to the next question.
2. Share a bit about why you would like to be a teaching artist/wellness worker with the Wellness and Expressive Arts Initiative. Please include any information about your past work with teenagers, if applicable.
3. Provide at least one sample workshop description, along with three objectives for the workshop that tie back to the purpose of the WEXi program (to help young people regain a sense of resilience, community, and meaning). You may propose more than one workshop, if desired.
4. Please provide two professional references.