**Job Announcement**

**Adoption/Guardianship Support Specialist**

Are you someone who wants to help make a difference in the lives of adoptive and guardianship families? Do you have the experience and/or skills that would help children and families as they move through the journey of creating and sustaining permanent families for a lifetime? If you are, or you know someone who is, please consider an application for one of the new DCFS Adoption/Guardianship Support Specialist positions.

The Adoption/Guardianship Support Specialist (AGSS) will support, advocate, and coach adoptive and guardianship parents as they move from foster care to becoming a permanent family. They will connect children and families with resources and supports, promote successful lifetime commitments and assist families in meeting their child’s developmental needs over time. The AGSS will work to provide assistance and support to adoptive/guardianship parents in the matching, pre-placement, and post–placement phases of their on-going journey to building and maintaining a successful permanent family. The AGSS will work with the DCFS Adoption Unit staff, the Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation Programs (ASAP) and other specialized DCFS units and approved resources to provide support and assistance to families both before and after adoption or guardianship. AGSSs respond to families in crisis within 24 hours of receipt of a referral. They also assist in identifying resources for less difficult issues, including emerging and future needs, in order to enhance family stabilization and to better prepare the family for what might lie ahead after adoption or guardianship, as their child’s needs change over time.

Their focus will be to serve licensed and unlicensed DCFS prospective and current adoptive and guardianship families. AGSS staff will be available both in person and by phone, to provide support, training, resources, and attendance at CFTM, school meetings, etc. when needed. A flexible schedule is necessary in order to meet with families as well as staff, both during daytime and early evening hours. Both 20 hour a week and 35 hour a week independent contractual positions are available. Starting pay is approximately $17.00 an hour. Applicants must be or have been a licensed caregiver with DCFS or another agency.

Application can be requested through the Office of Caregiver and Parent Support by emailing DCFS.AGSS@Illinois.gov or at 1-217-524-2422.

Completed application and a copy of a current resume should be emailed to DCFS.AGSS@Illinois.gov