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## APPALACHIAN CHILDREN COALITION

### Behavioral Health Graduate Program

#### Background:

##### *Why Behavioral Health?*

Choosing a career in Mental and Behavioral Health allows you to positively impact individuals' lives and the overall health and well-being of communities. The Appalachian Ohio region needs behavioral health professionals to ensure that children and families have access to the care and support they need in school, at home, and in their communities. Behavioral Health professionals working in Appalachia Ohio can address the current challenges facing children and families in the region.

#### Purpose:

The Appalachian Children Coalition (ACC) works to increase the behavioral health workforce in Appalachia Ohio and to improve the quality of life for our region's kids. Through education, collaboration, and innovation, we work to drive interest in mental and behavioral health careers. The ACC also works to improve the recruitment and retention of professionals and paraprofessionals. Our services are available to mental and behavioral health providers, healthcare organizations, schools, and agencies to address their workforce needs.

## **Funding Model:**

The ACC will work to help graduate level students complete their studies and demonstrate investment in them to stay in the region. The funding model of support is a two-semester program for those in their last two semesters of their program.

### *Semester 1 – Degree Completion Assistance*

Students enroll in our coaching program and receive a \$1,000 stipend upon completion to help cover some of the costs for graduation and testing.

### *Semester 2 – Regional Licensure Assistance*

Students continue with the community coaching model, individual coaching as desired, and use ACC resources for job searches and connections. Upon official hire for a job in the region, students will receive a \$2,000 stipend to help defray costs of student loans and/or supervision requirements for licensure. A letter of intent to stay in the region for at least 3-5 years is also required.

## **Requirements:**

To qualify for the program, candidates must:

- Be an actively enrolled graduate student in their final two semesters of their behavioral/mental health program
- Search for and secure employment in one of the 32 counties
- Sign and honor a letter of intent to work in the region for at least 3-5 years
- Commit to and participate in the ACC impACCT Coaching program

## **Interested?**

**Please contact Anna Reed, Director of Workforce Development:**

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