



Dawn James-Taylor is a Certified Workforce Development Professional and a Social Worker with more than 25 years in the field of Human Services. A few of her areas of expertise includes child and adult welfare, compliance, workforce development services, case management, grant monitoring, program development, and operational improvements using a trauma-informed approach. Ms. James-Taylor enjoys collaborating with organizations to ensure they are supplied the support and tools to remain compliant while serving their customers.

As an Employment Services Specialist at the City of Newport News DHS, she was instrumental in developing and improving effective ways to remain compliant with local, state, and federal employment and workforce guidelines. Ms. James-Taylor provided employment support, technical assistance, and trainings to internal and external partners. In addition, she provided leadership with innovative suggestions to meet and exceed agency expectations.

Ms. James-Taylor's passion for Human Services lies in ensuring customers are treated regardless of their socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, and cultural background. She prides herself with assisting community partners with understanding and implementing practices to ensure customers are treated with dignity and respect. Ms. James-Taylor contributes her passion to her interactions with community organizations where she assists them with enhancing their programs and remaining compliant with local, state, and federal guidelines. While working as a Policy Planning Specialist, Ms. James-Taylor supervised and monitored sixteen local Department of Social Services agencies throughout the central and eastern regions. Additionally, she assisted her colleagues with monitoring and supervising their assigned localities. She has experience conducting on-site and remote agency reviews and delivering technical assistance trainings.

Ms. James-Taylor completed her bachelor's degree at Christopher Newport University in Governmental Administration/Criminal Justice. She attended trainings and seminars in human services, compliance, and workforce development, which contributed to her career and professional development. Ms. James-Taylor is a true advocate for children and families, program compliance, and supporting organizations. Two of her favorite quotes are:

- "If you do it right the first time you do not have to worry about it any other time."
- "Teamwork makes the dream work."

What does it mean to be part of the National Farmworkers Job Program?

This is a dream that came to reality. I knew I wanted to be part of a team that makes positive changes on a much larger level and this program is exactly what I wanted. It means working alongside the great organizations and a team of professionals who contribute to our agricultural resources.

What is the one thing you want to accomplish as part of your NFJP role?

In this role, I want grantees to feel comfortable reaching out for support with their grants. I enjoy working in a team approach, because we all bring such solution-focused creative and innovative ideas to bring about positive outcomes. As a result of the pandemic, I totally understand the challenges the grantees are facing, and I genuinely want to know how best to support them with eliminating the challenges and working towards positive outcomes.