

Peer Support Worker Job Posting

Title: Peer Support Worker

Category: Part time, 16 hours per week

Salary: \$18,327 per year

Application Deadline: March 19th, 2018

Organization Background

Options Bytown is a non-profit organization that ends homelessness by providing permanent housing with no readiness conditions alongside personal support to ensure housing stability and enhanced quality of life. Our tenants and clients receive ongoing support from the Options Bytown team to help them maintain their tenancy, work towards personal life goals, and connect them with their surrounding community.

Job Summary:

The person in this position will use their lived experience to support and build rapport with a variety of Housing First participants. Engage with individuals to build a quality working rapport, provide information, improve access to services and resources, and assist them to connect with their communities. This position will work a varied work schedule to allow for the largest number possible of participants to be reached. They will be an integral member of the Housing First team, to provide support to participants both individually and in group settings.

Main Duties

- Provide outreach services to participants in a variety of environments including shelters, the streets, and residences

- Participate in regular team meetings, and provide first-person perspective to the Housing First team when conducting case reviews and problem-solving on challenges encountered by the team when supporting participants
- Provide information on harm reduction and distribute materials such as NALOXONE and safer use items
- Advocate with participants when accessing services
- Connect with participants who have been identified by the case managers as being at risk of social isolation to support community integration, connection with local resources, and reconnection with natural supports as appropriate.
- Solicit participant input, and design and facilitate weekly recreational and social groups and outings
- Reach out to participants with whom case managers are having difficulty connecting
- Support participants throughout the graduation process and for a short period post-graduation to ensure continued success
- Support participants in working towards goals as identified in their support plan
- Document and complete case notes at the end of each shift
- Perform other administrative duties including but not limited to contacting other agencies and resources, preserving confidentiality of all individuals information, and adhering to Options Bytown's policies and procedures
- Other duties as assigned

Job Qualifications

- Lived experience of homelessness, mental health problems and illness, and/or substance use
- Complimentary training, education, and work experience are considered assets.
- Ability to converse in languages in addition to English is considered an asset.
- Knowledge of the Residential Tenancy Act is considered an asset
- Satisfactory completion of a Vulnerable Sector Screening Check

Key Skills and Abilities

- Has a non-judgmental and inclusive approach in a variety of situations, and is compassionate and caring towards others
- Ability to work collaboratively with others in a team
- An awareness of the issues faced by people experiencing homelessness, mental health problems and illnesses, and substance use
- Sensitive to cultural differences, as demonstrated in practice
- Ability to apply Recovery principles and harm-reduction philosophies and practices in work with individuals
- Ability to engage in participant interactions, which negotiate complex boundaries of self-disclosure and appropriate working relationships.
- Basic knowledge and experience working with computers
- Be willing to debrief and check in regularly with an assigned manager/co worker in regards to their own mental/emotional wellbeing in relation to their role as a peer support worker

This position requires you to work at all Options Bytown locations, in the community and in individuals' homes. This means exposure to sometimes-harsh environments; smoke, pests, clutter, verbal abuse and other adverse conditions. The employee must be ready to respond quickly and effectively to many types of situations, including crises and potentially hostile situations.

Application Process

Application deadline is **March 19th, 2018**.

Please submit your application to Catharine Vandelinde at cvandelinde@optionsbytown.com

Options Bytown is committed to diversity in the workplace and workplace wellbeing. As such, applications from individuals from diverse backgrounds; First Nations, Inuit, and Métis; and those with lived experience of homelessness, mental health problems or illnesses are welcomed and encouraged.

Options Bytown welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available for applicants on request by contacting our Human Resource Officer and emccarney@optionsbytown.com.