

PEER POSITION JOB POSTING

Edward Village - Peer Engagement Worker

Part-time positions available (11-16.5 hours/week). Non-union.

6-month Contracts, with possibility of extension.

Hourly Rate of Pay: \$26.27

SUMMARY: The Neighbourhood Group Community Services (TNGCS) plays an active role in improving the well-being of shelter residents across the city. Our programs have saved hundreds of lives through overdose response and harm reduction services. These programs have also connected residents to a range of resources including case management, health care, legal aid, education, employment and housing.

At Edward Village shelter-hotel in North York, we partner with Fred Victor to offer a unique safe space, called "The Village Drop-in". The Drop-In connects shelter residents to their community and to peer support.

Edward Village Peer Engagement Workers work as a team to welcome residents to the space, build rapport, authentically listen, facilitate regular group activities, foster connection and maintain a supportive environment.

Peer Engagement Workers may be required to work evenings, with shifts ending at 10pm.

MAJOR DUTIES:

- Welcome residents to The Village Drop-in.
- Build rapport with community members; demonstrate authentic listening and communication of one's own direct experiences for the benefit of the clients, relating to issues of homelessness, substance use, physical and mental health challenges.
- Assist participants to build support networks/relationships and manage struggles in meeting basic needs.
- Co-facilitate groups and events; seek out opportunities to connect community members and reduce social isolation.
- Develop and propose groups and activities that engage, connect and promote well-being with residents.
- Help clients to navigate resources, including harm reduction practices, and safer use strategies.
- De-escalate situations by listening, validating concerns and communicating with team members.
- Empower clients to advocate on their own behalf and support advocacy efforts with staff.
- Engage and build respectful and professional relationships with all team members and community partners.
- Promote awareness of peer support, harm reduction, trauma-informed and client-centred work.
- Consistently collect guest resident attendance data and update supply inventory daily.
- Attend and actively participate in regular training sessions and team meetings.
- Ensure client confidentiality is maintained.
- Follow COVID-19 IPAC and other safety protocols.
- Other duties as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS:

- Lived/living experience of homelessness, substance use and/or mental health challenges.
- Demonstrated knowledge of and support for harm reduction practices and client-centred approaches.
- Experience successfully completing a peer training program and/or peer work contract considered a strong asset.
- Ability to de-escalate conflicts.
- Ability to maintain strong professional and ethical boundaries.
- Willingness to utilize knowledge of lived experience to connect with community members.
- Responsible, reliable and punctual.
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team environment.
- Willingness to accept feedback and incorporate it into daily work.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills; open, non-judgmental and willing to learn.
- Demonstrates respect towards diverse communities and individuals.
- Must possess comfort and sensitivity working with individuals with substance use issues.
- First Aid, CPR, Non-violent Crisis Intervention certifications considered assets.
- Willingness to travel to Edward Village in North York, near Sheppard & Don Mills.
- Flexibility, resourcefulness, creativity, commitment & empathy will further support your success in this position.

To apply, email your cover letter and resume with "Peer Engagement Worker" in the subject line to michael.waglay@tngcs.org no later than October 6, 2024