



Peer Support Specialist

Wanted: Versatile individual to join our team at Hands On Hartford as a Peer Support Specialist to work as part of a collaborative partnership between Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition (GHHRC), Wheeler Clinic, and Hands On Hartford (HOH) to play a supporting role in the implementation and coordination of the Homeless Street Outreach Program. Using your own past or present experience of homelessness, you will play an active role in engaging individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness. You will work closely with the Outreach Worker and other partners (GHHRC and Wheeler) to identify individuals in need of individualized guidance, coaching, encouragement, and support by canvassing streets, woods, ERs, soup kitchens, and other areas where unsheltered individuals are reported to be living. This position requires the ability to physically navigate different types of terrain.

When: Part time- 10 hours a week that includes days, evenings and weekends. Flexibility in the work schedule is expected. Schedule subject to change based on the needs of the program and agency.

Why work at Hands On Hartford: Hands On Hartford, in partnership with others, strengthens community in Hartford by responding faithfully to people in need through programs that change lives and renew human possibility.

What you will do as a Peer Support Specialist: You will do many things including but not limited to:

1. As a part of the outreach team, canvass streets, woods, and other areas identified as places where unsheltered people are living.
2. Utilize own expertise with homelessness to provide individualized, ongoing guidance, coaching, support, and inspiration.
3. Provide education in the use of personal and community resources to identified individuals.
4. Assist in developing formal and informal community supports.
5. Assist the individual served in increasing social support networks of relatives, friends and/or significant others.
6. Offer encouragement in times of crisis.
7. Advocate on behalf of the persons with behavioral health and/or substance use challenges to protect the client's rights and to assist in reducing associated stigma.
8. Connect individual to community providers.
9. Participate in collaborative team coordinating huddles and meetings with GHHRC and Wheeler as needed.

You may be a good fit if you:

- Believe in our mission and core values.
- High school diploma or GED required. One plus years' experience working with people experiencing homelessness in direct service capacity, case management or basic needs service work.
- Person with lived expertise with homelessness required. Personal well managed experience with behavioral health issues a plus.
- Knowledge and proficiency in using computer applications, including standard Windows application.
- Fluency in Spanish in addition to English is strongly preferred.
- Ability to lift and carry at least 25 pounds and ability to physically navigate different types of terrain.

If this sounds like a good fit to you:

Send letter of interest & resume to: Janet Bermudez, Program Manager MANNA Services

Hands On Hartford, 55 Bartholomew Ave, Hartford CT 06106.

Email jbermudez@handsonhartford.org

Closing date: 11/30/20

AA/EOE