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Join our Amazing E Fry Ottawa Team!

Peer Support Facilitator

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa is a not-for-profit, feminist community agency offering programs and services to women and men in conflict with the law. The Peer Support Facilitator provides a welcoming, barrier-free, safe space for feminine and non-binary folks to access integrated services including social supports, cultural supports, peer supports, mental health and addiction supports, workshops and activities to support success. The Peer Support Facilitator is a full-time position in a unionized environment.

Job title: Peer Support Facilitator
Reports to: Manager, Community Engagement
Hours: 37.5 hours/week
Language: English Essential (Bilingual is an asset)
Salary: \$20.27/hour as per collective agreement (**negotiations for a renewed collective agreement have been initiated**), plus benefits

Core Responsibilities

Our Peer Support Facilitator provides a welcoming safe space for feminine and non-binary folks to spend time, participate in programming and socialize with peers. Using a client-centred, trauma-informed approach, the Peer Support Facilitator will support participants, including those affected by mental health and substance use, to enjoy and engage in activities and conversations together. This position requires mostly daytime work with some regular evening work. The Peer Support Facilitator is responsible for planning and facilitating three key programs: Indigenous Peer Support, Drop-In, and Gateway, with responsibilities for each as set out below.

Indigenous Peer Support Responsibilities

- Facilitate a weekly peer support group for young and adult Indigenous feminine and non-binary folks who are criminalized or may become criminalized to identify, track and discuss issues specific to Indigenous communities.
- Facilitate activities such as healing circles, arts and crafts, accompaniment to sweat lodges, pow-wows, cultural ceremonies and other activities designed to (re)engage participants with their culture – and identify such opportunities for activities with participants
- Assist participants in establishing a network of supports and building connections to the community by providing referrals to Indigenous organizations and connection to Elders for teachings, guidance and advice

Drop-In Program Responsibilities

- Coordinate the donations of clothing, foodbank, hygiene products, harm reduction supplies, and maintain donations in the Drop-in space
- Facilitate two-three weekly Drop-in peer group gatherings at scheduled times (as COVID-19 public health guidelines permit), including participating in inclusive conversations that support participants in moving forward with their life goals
- Plan and organize occasional workshops and activities of interest to participants, including to support new skills and personal development
- Connect participants to the appropriate staff or services in the agency or in the community

- Advocate for clients and liaise with community-based agencies as needed

Gateway Program Responsibilities

- Coordinate and facilitate a weekly group for women involved in the sex trade in a way that promotes safety, confidentiality and acceptance
- Provide primary support, programming, advocacy, resource referral, and crisis intervention to participants
- Plan for and organize refreshments, activities and occasional workshops
- Network with other community agencies and drop-ins that provide similar services, and actively participant in relevant committees

Other responsibilities

- Promote and deliver on the mission, vision and values of our organization, including providing compassionate support and taking a trauma-informed approach to all client activities
- Track and maintain information for reporting purposes (while maintaining client confidentiality)
- Participate in monthly staff meetings
- Undertakes other duties as may be assigned by the Manager, Community Engagement to improve or enhance the delivery of service.

Qualifications

Required education and experience

- A candidate with Indigenous heritage is preferred
- A candidate with lived experience with the criminal justice system is preferred
- Experience working with marginalized feminine and non-binary folks who face multiple barriers such as poverty, systemic discrimination, disproportionate criminalization and housing instability
- Experience and/or education equivalent to a post-secondary degree in social work/related relevant field
- Valid First Aid/CPR and Non-Violent Crisis Intervention certification required within the first six months

Required knowledge, capacity and commitment

- Demonstrated experience and/or understanding working with marginalized people and people of diverse cultures and abilities in a community-based setting
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain trust relationships
- Demonstrated ability to exercise strong decision-making skills and deal with unpredictable situations
- Strong crisis intervention and de-escalation skills
- Creative, innovative thinker able to inspire and engage others
- Solid understanding of factors that contribute to women’s involvement in the criminal justice system and the systemic causes of the over-representation of Indigenous women in the criminal justice system
- Strong understanding of client-centered, trauma-informed and anti-racism, anti-oppression practices
- Thorough understanding of and experience working with people with complex social needs including homelessness, mental health issues, addictions and trauma
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Organized, highly skilled with time management and planning

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| <p>Are you an ideal candidate?</p> <p>In addition to the above, some “great to have” qualifications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You have a genuine interest in working with marginalized people with care and empathy ▪ You thrive in a busy work environment | <p>Apply by 4:00 pm – July 23, 2021</p> <p>Please submit your resume and a cover letter to Jenna Spagnoli, Manager of Community Engagement through careers@efryottawa.com</p> <p><i>Tell us how you meet or exceed the above required and “great to have” qualifications</i></p> |
| <p>We thank all who apply. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.</p> | |