



Join our amazing team—and be part of an exciting new pilot project!

Peer Support Specialist, Safe Bridge Stabilization Pilot Program
(15-month contract)

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| Job Title: | Peer Support Specialist, Safe Bridge Program |
| Reports to: | Manager, Safe Bridge Program |
| Hours: | 37.5 hours/week – including some evening/weekend/split-shift work |
| Location: | Ottawa (new residence, location to be determined) |
| Language: | English Essential (Bilingual Preferred) |
| Salary: | \$ 21.61 plus benefits |

About E Fry Ottawa

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa is a not-for-profit community agency that supports and advocates for women, gender-diverse people and men impacted by the justice system. We provide a diverse array of community-based and residential programming. Our work is aimed at reducing harm and oppression, supporting people to overcome barriers to reintegration, and empowering them to build a life of stability and resiliency. We are a feminist organization committed to working from a human rights and anti-oppression perspective, recognizing systemic barriers that lead to marginalization. We work with trauma-informed, person-centred principles to promote a respectful, diverse and inclusive environment that promotes healing, recovery and successful reintegration.

Interested? Qualified?

**Apply by noon, Friday,
June 24**

**Tell us how you meet or
exceed our expectations –
and how we can meet or
exceed yours!**

About Project Safe Bridge and the Peer Support Specialist Role

Set to launch in July 2022, Safe Bridge is a 15-month pilot program for women/gender-diverse people who are experiencing problematic substance use and who are motivated to stabilize in preparation for treatment. We are implementing this pilot program in collaboration with Minwaashin Lodge and Cornerstone Housing for Women. Safe Bridge is designed to provide safe, supportive, trauma-informed day/evening programming to up to six (6) women in our 24/7 residence, as well as to clients of Minwaashin Lodge (day/evening programming). Day/evening programming will include both Indigenous and mainstream programming.

Using a client-centred, trauma-informed approach, the Peer Support Specialist collaborates with program clients to provide individualized supports in a flexible, compassionate, and responsible manner to help engage them in programming and access resources to maximize independence and promote readiness for treatment. The Peer Support Specialist facilitates groups and provides one-on-one, short-term support as required. In collaboration with other members of the Safe Bridge team, the Peer Support Specialist uses empowerment and recovery-oriented approaches with individuals and groups to help combat stigma, raise self-esteem, improve self-concept, and instill hope.

Core Responsibilities

- Facilitate peer groups/workshops on coping techniques, skill development, AA, NA, social recreational groups, life skills, wellness and other themes
- Facilitate and/or co-facilitate community programs: relapse prevention program and/or other programs offering skills to address the underlying challenges associated with substance use
- Work collaboratively with service recipients and the team to develop recovery and goal plans and support individuals in their recovery process
- Advocate on behalf of clients with other community service providers to enhance access to services.
- Assist clients in developing empowerment skills and combating stigma through self-advocacy
- Act as a role model in self-care, self-awareness, and wellness tools
- Make appropriate internal referrals and referrals to community agencies based on client needs
- Engage in purposeful and deliberate sharing of your own lived experience of addiction/mental health recovery to facilitate the development of engagement, build relationships, and gain trust with program participants
- Participate in program reporting and development activities in collaboration with other Safe Bridge team members as required, including in support of program evaluation, data collection, ongoing quality improvement throughout the duration of the pilot project, etc.
- Work cooperatively both internally and externally to foster program development designed to meet the needs of clients experiencing substance use challenges
- Encourage and support clients to learn and apply the life skills (e.g., cooking, cleaning, budgeting) to support recovery and improve quality of life
- Participate in phone support/on-call rotation to provide assistance to on-duty staff as needed.
- Other duties as required by the Manager, Safe Bridge

Other Responsibilities

- Promote and deliver on the mission, vision, and values of E Fry Ottawa, including providing compassionate support and taking a trauma-informed approach to all client activities
- Collect, enter, and maintain information in ShareVision for all direct service interactions (while maintaining client confidentiality) as per agency standards
- Participate in monthly staff meetings

Required Qualifications, Knowledge, Capacity and Commitment

Required education and experience

- ✓ Secondary school diploma (additional education and training preferred)
- ✓ Peer Support Certification considered an asset (or willingness to obtain certification)
- ✓ Experience in social services and addictions considered an asset
- ✓ Personal experience with mental health and/or addiction, and established recovery
- ✓ Experience with group facilitation in congregate settings preferred
- ✓ Experience providing peer support to individuals with mental health and/or substance use challenges.
- ✓ Excellent communication skills (English essential, French is an asset)
- ✓ Excellent organization and interpersonal skills
- ✓ Experience and sensitivity in dealing with members of different cultural and racial backgrounds, including visible and invisible dimensions of diversity.
- ✓ Experience coordinating and facilitating social and recreational activities
- ✓ Excellent problem-solving and decision-making skills.

Required knowledge, capacity, and commitment

- ✓ Knowledge of recovery principles and empowerment-oriented philosophies and practices in work with clients
- ✓ Knowledge of and sensitivity to cultural and diversity issues
- ✓ Ability to work professionally, autonomously, collaboratively, and respectfully within a team environment
- ✓ Demonstrated ability to observe boundaries, engage in appropriate emotional regulation, refrain from dual relationships with clients, and engage in reasonable self-care strategies designed to reduce stress by balancing work/life responsibilities
- ✓ Knowledge of systemic issues such as poverty, unemployment, stigma and the isolation felt by individuals with substance use and mental illness
- ✓ Knowledge of community support/agencies to connect clients to programs and services
- ✓ Capable of speaking in groups and presenting to an audience is considered an asset
- ✓ Demonstrated ability to hold empathy and compassion for the ideas, beliefs, and feelings of others.
- ✓ Excellent crisis intervention and conflict resolution skills
- ✓ Good working knowledge of Microsoft Office, the Internet, and data management software
- ✓ A valid Ontario Class "G" Driver's license, clean driving record and a vehicle with adequate insurance coverage considered an asset
- ✓ Valid First Aid and CPR certification

The successful candidate will be required to pass a security clearance at the Protected B level.

To protect vulnerable clients and staff, the successful candidate will be required to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 as per our immunization policy.

Apply by noon, Friday, June 24!

Please send a résumé and a cover letter to Kayla Crowe, Associate Manager of Office Administration at: Office.Manager@efryottawa.com

Tell us how you meet or exceed the above requirements and any of the following "great to have" qualifications...

- Knowledge of local community resources
- Non-violent Crisis Intervention (NVC) training /ASIST and/or other relevant training
- A genuine interest in working with vulnerable women and gender-diverse people with care and empathy