

Manhattan, New York – Peer Specialist

How to Apply

<https://chm.tbe.taleo.net/chm04/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=JEWIBOAR&cws=1&rid=1993>

OVERVIEW:

Bridging the Gap is a federally (SAMHSA) funded five year initiative designed to enhance the capacity of The Jewish Board to more effectively identify and engage NYC's Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth at risk of homelessness in its continuum of community based and residential trauma treatment.

The Peer Support Specialists have lived experience facing and overcoming childhood adversities (examples include behavioral health challenges and treatment, participation in the child welfare system, and other youth-serving programs). Peers will collaborate with agency staff and community partners, and will be part of a team-based approach to enhance program outreach, engagement and retention efforts to help program participants and their families stay connected to care. This is an emerging job role and peers will receive ongoing training, coaching and support.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Peers will provide engagement and support services to youth and families identified through the Bridging the Gap program using some or all of the following strategies:

- Collaborate with treatment teams to help youth identify and reach goals
 - Provide outreach, coaching, and mentoring to assist with the development of skills, reduce social isolation, and promote engagement in treatment
 - Assist with organization and participation in social, vocational and educational activities
 - Assist youth and families with access to case management and medical needs
 - Ensure that effective and active connections are maintained with youth who leave treatment in order to expedite and facilitate their return
- Promote and strengthen connections with community partners and programs
 - Help youth and families navigate and transition across service delivery systems
 - Travel between programs and different community settings for optimal youth and family engagement
 - Participate in community outreach and awareness activities with the team
 - Attend Project Advisory Board meetings
- Develop range of peer advocacy skills through participation in program training and supervision
 - Learn about how to use lived experience and recovery to promote engagement and instill hope
 - Add lived experience voice to staff training materials
 - Participate in Peer Workforce Supervisory meetings and individual supervision
- Complete necessary paperwork in accordance the Bridging the Gap program

REQUIREMENTS:

- Lived experience facing and overcoming childhood adversities. Common examples include: behavioral health challenges and treatment, participation in the child welfare system and other youth-serving programs, commercial sexual exploitation, and childhood trauma
- HS diploma or GED
- Prior work or structured volunteer work experience

- Experience in one or more of the following fields is desired: recovery oriented services, child welfare systems, peer support/advocacy programs, or other participant run programs, sports leadership, youth leadership clubs or programs
- Willingness to selectively and appropriately disclose personal recovery experiences for the purposes of youth engagement
- Willingness to travel between programs and community settings
- The ability to empathize with, relate to and effectively work with participants of behavioral health services
- Good interpersonal communication and collaboration skills
- Good organizational skills
- Fluency in Spanish is helpful

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

- Regularly required to speak clearly and hear the spoken word well
- Regularly required to physically operate routine office equipment such as telephones, computers, etc.
- Regularly required to travel to sites in and outside the Agency using customary modes of public or private transportation
- Regularly required to utilize near vision ability to read data and documents, including spreadsheets and reports, in printed form and on computer screens

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

- Both indoors and outdoors, including travel to community and client home settings
- Hazards present are consistent with those common to an office, education, rehabilitation, industrial, workshop or health related environment
- To perform the essential functions of this job, the candidate is routinely required to walk, travel, stand and sit

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