

Peer Advocate -AHI

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Community Access, Inc. (CA), founded in 1974, is a progressive not-for-profit organization that expands opportunities for people living with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy and healing-focused services. We are built upon the simple truth that people are experts in their own lives. Our programs are spread across 20 locations and include over 1000 units of supportive housing in three boroughs

Position Overview

The Peer Advocate works to develop mentoring and supportive relationship with NYC Adult Home Residents, promoting connection and hope in an independent future in Supported Housing. The Peer Bridger engages residents in peer-based services to identify and overcome barriers to housing transition, addressing questions and fears, while building self-advocacy and systems-navigation skills.

Salary : 19.23 / Hour

Hour Shift : 40 Hour/ week

Location : Bronx

Essential Job Functions

- Utilize a peer relationship to foster connection, trust, understanding and validation with Adult Home Residents.
- Engage residents to identify and understand barriers to housing transition.
- Plan, promote, and participate in activities and events designed to enhance residents' awareness of and potential identification with life in the community.
- Utilize strength-based, motivational engagement with residents who have not been successfully engaged in transition services
- Collaborate with providers involved in assessment activities to support the process.
- Collaborate with housing and other providers to create strengths-based, person-centered care plans.
- Assist in securing basic documents and entitlements, identifying and linking with appropriate services and resources as needed.
- Accompany residents on tours of available housing options and other community resources.
- Support residents during and after the move to community housing
- Plans and delivers group-based learning opportunities including: Adult Home Settlement awareness, self-advocacy, decision-making and self-reliance, affirmative and enjoyable socialization, making and keeping social connections, work readiness, literacy, etc.
- Explore and address resident needs related to life goals, sense of purpose, physical wellness, spirituality, education, employment, socialization, and community involvement, fostering connections as needed.

- Educate and inform residents on the steps, timeframes, and status of their housing transition process.
- Model and develop self-advocacy skills including organization, time management, communication, and navigating bureaucracies.
- Collaborate in conducting fact-finding and research projects including surveys, interviews, and asset based community mapping.
- Assists individuals to enhance awareness of personal interests and preferences, awareness of environmental resources, and making informed decisions regarding participation
- Assists individuals in connecting with other peers, using their strengths and skills to build sustainable relationships.
- Advocate with and for residents to promote community integration, proactively addressing potential barriers such as transportation, fear, stigma and communication with others.
- Completes and submits all internal documentation including participant-related data such as plans, notes and employment or referral-related outcomes in AWARDS.
- Participates in data collection and recording related to outcomes and other program, agency or funder/ contactor priorities
- Conduct workshops and community events.
- Ability to travel and work afternoons, evenings and weekends.
- Attend and participate in supervision, meetings and training sessions.

Job Qualifications

- Have an understanding, appreciation, and commitment to the philosophy and mission of Community Access.
- Recipient/survivor of mental health services, required.
- Minimum of a High School/Equivalency Diploma, required.
- Experience working in behavioral health setting: peer service delivery, community development, rehabilitation or recovery-oriented services, preferred.
- Personal or professional experience with New York City mental health supported housing, preferred.
- Must be fingerprinted and cleared by the New York State Justice Center.
- Resourceful and able to organize, multitask, and prioritize work.
- Possess strong understanding and practice of recovery, wellness and related services.
- Analytical and innovative problem solving abilities.
- Attentive to details in documentation and data collection, reporting and analysis.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Strong oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to utilize various computer programs, specifically Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Ability to travel and work afternoons, evenings and weekends.
- Show initiative and be responsible for follow through.
- Ability to maintain confidential information, as related to position.

Bilingual Spanish-speaking candidates are strongly encouraged to apply

Interested candidates should apply on <https://www.e3applicants.com/cai/>

Community Access is an Equal Opportunity Employer. M/F/D/V.Women, People of Color and Members of the LGBT community are strongly encouraged to apply.CA is committed to the hiring of at least 51% consumer staff, in all of its departments and programs, and at all levels of management.www.communityaccess.org