



peers

VICTORIA RESOURCES SOCIETY

Housing and Harm Reduction Outreach Support Worker for Unsheltered Individuals

Peers Victoria is a peer-based, grass roots organization for people in sex work or trade that has been in operation since 1995. Through direct service delivery and partnerships, Peers provides an array of outreach and drop-in support services, advocacy, and public education. We maintain an accessible service environment that promotes the empowerment of current and former sex workers.

Reporting to the Executive Director and in partnership with a larger harm reduction and housing outreach and support team, the **Housing and Harm Reduction Outreach Support Worker** works with unsheltered individuals (including people who are camping, living in temporary residences or couch surfing) to deliver basic necessities and harm reduction resources, and to assist individuals to secure housing based on personal preferences. This position is part of a temporary and urgent response to provide support and resources to unsheltered individuals due to COVID-19 via partnership between Canada and the Capital Regional District (<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness.html>).

While Peers Victoria's mandate is to serve current and former sex workers of all gender and sexualities, this position will involve providing services to all individuals who require basic necessities supports while they are living without permanent shelter. The position is funded until November 2020 with the possibility of renewal.

The Housing and Harm Reduction Outreach and Support Worker will work 4 days per week, 6 hours per day (approx. 24 hours per week). Days of the week and times of the day are flexible, but consideration will be given to applicants available on weekends and early evenings to expand the range of support offerings to unsheltered individuals. Peers outreach workers work in collaboration with other local organizations to deliver necessary supports to unsheltered individuals and normally work in pairs, either with another Peers Victoria staff person or with a partner from an allied organization.

Specific duties for this position include:

1. Connect with unsheltered individuals residing in parks and current and former sex workers residing in a variety of temporary locations to provide food supports, harm reduction and safer sex supplies, camping equipment, and referrals to BC Housing and other housing resources based on individual preferences;
2. Work collaboratively with outreach teams to coordinate multi-agency efforts with Island Health, IHRT, AVI, SOLID, Doctors of the World, outreach nurses, and others to deliver a range of services to unsheltered individuals;
3. Work in collaboration with Peers harm reduction and Reaching Home housing support workers to more intensively support 15-25 individuals who fit Peers mandate and are unsheltered or living in temporary housing sites to ensure fuller range of support needs are being met;



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4. Participate in advocacy and community development opportunities relevant to meeting the needs of unsheltered individuals;
5. Maintenance of all documentation necessary to report on the outputs, outcomes and financial reports associated with this work;
6. Adherence to Peers policies, procedures, values and mandate.

Skills/Qualities:

- Knowledge of local social services including housing, income and food security supports;
- Strong understanding of the needs of unsheltered individuals and knowledge on how to support this diverse community;
- Understanding of trauma informed care;
- Approachable, tolerant, non-judgmental, empathic, and calm in conflict or crisis;
- Thorough knowledge of safer sex and substance use harm reduction models;
- Strong interpersonal skills and collaborative, team oriented, ethical service approach;
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills;
- Commitment to applying social justice principles to housing and harm reduction support;
- Knowledge of diversity of local sex industry and ability to connect with target population;
- A degree in health or social service provision or equivalent experience in service delivery (4+ years) is required.

Job details:

- 24 hours per week;
- Pay rate \$25/hour;
- Requires a valid BC driver license and use of personal vehicle;
- Must have Basic First Aid, Food Safe, and CPR;
- Vulnerable Sector Criminal Record Check required;
- Position is funded through November 2020 with the possibility of renewal.

If you are interested in this employment opportunity, please submit a resume and a covering letter that summarizes your relevant experience and skills by June 26, 2020 to peershiring@gmail.com.

Applications from individuals with direct experience in any aspect of the sex industry are especially welcome. We also encourage applications from, but not limited to, Indigenous people, people of colour, people with disability(ies), and people representing diverse genders and sexualities.