



peers

VICTORIA RESOURCES SOCIETY

Temporary Housing Support Worker(s)

3 part-time positions: 7-3 (4 days per week), 7-3 (2-3 days per week), 2-10 (4 days per week), 2-10 (2-3 days per week)

Casual shifts: (7-3pm, 2-10pm, 11-7am, 11-6pm)

These positions will be in place until August 31, 2020

Peers Victoria is a multi-service, grassroots non-profit organization that has been working with sex workers for close to 25 years. Peers provides outreach, harm reduction, and drop in services, as well as wellness workshops, housing support, and social justice leadership concerning sex workers rights in the Capital Regional District.

In response to the rapidly changing landscape of Covid-19, Peers Victoria is working with BC Housing to provide temporary housing support at a local motel. The individuals we will be supporting have a history of homelessness and will often be experiencing inter-related health support needs related to substance use, mental health, trauma, and chronic illness. While Peers Victoria focuses on supporting individuals currently or formerly in the sex trade, in this setting, support will be provided to all individuals who reside at the site with an emphasis on harm reduction, client centred approaches. Peers Victoria staff are part of a multidisciplinary team, but we offer a unique perspective based on our experience in gender-based service delivery to people in sex work or trade.

Reporting to the Program Coordinator and Executive Director, the Housing Support Worker is a skilled harm reduction housing provider, familiar with local health and social services, and knowledgeable about peer-based support. Motel Outreach Workers work collaboratively with other team members on site including medical, housing, hotel and other harm reduction staff.

Specific duties include:

1. Create personalized support plans with residents, implement, monitor, and evaluate plans, and complete on-going documentation to ensure coordinated resident support;
2. Assist tenants to access safer supply, harm reduction/safer sex supplies and education, and overdose prevention supports;
3. Assist residents with referrals/access to community resources as requested, including physical and mental health care, Ministry services, social services, cultural supports, liaising with community resources and advocating for residents;
4. Assist with distribution of food and basic necessities;
5. Assist tenants with cleaning and support daily activities;

6. Complete housing and service planning documents, including permanent housing applications;
7. Participate in community meetings, including resident case conferences;
8. Coordinate resident-based leadership and harm reduction support where possible;
9. Facilitate resident conflict resolution;
10. Help to organize on-site programming;
11. Respond to critical incidents, including overdose;
12. Maintain reports such as logbooks and tenant files, prepare critical incident reports, and expense records;
13. Provide transition support for tenants moving in or out of supportive housing
14. Assist with minor repairs and maintenance (e.g. changing a lightbulb), assist tenants to prepare for maintenance/repair activities
15. Facilitate bringing resident concerns and needs forward to operator
16. Coordinate maintenance requests with housing operator

Desired Skills and Qualifications:

- Understanding of trauma-informed care;
- Approachable, non-judgmental, empathic, and calm in conflict or crisis;
- Knowledge of harm reduction supplies and strategies in relation to different types of substance use;
- Sex work positive and able to provide safer sex information and supplies;
- Knowledge of local health and social service agencies and service access particulars;
- Collaborative, team-oriented service approach;
- Commitment to practices of confidentiality, ethical service delivery, and boundaries in helping relationships;
- Punctual, reliable and able to communicate service and advocacy information verbally and in written format;
- Understanding of social inequities, human rights, and ability to apply a social justice lens to health and social services, including a commitment to anti-racism, lgbtq2s+ rights, and addressing the ongoing impact of colonization.
- A degree in health or social service provision or equivalent experience in paid or volunteer service delivery (4+ years) is preferred, but consideration will also be given to relevant lived experience in lieu of other education and/or experience.

Job details and Training Requirements:

- Wage is \$25/hour.
- Must have Basic First Aid and CPR. Food safe is required to work in other Peers' programs and will be an asset in this position.
- Must complete a vulnerable sector criminal record check.
- Additional certification/training in therapeutic communication, conflict resolution, and occupational safety practices is an asset.
- Based on skills and experience, persons hired may be eligible to work casually in the night outreach and drop-in programs.

If you are interested in this community service opportunity, please submit a resume and a cover letter that summarizes your relevant experience and at your earliest convenience

to peershiring@gmail.com. Hiring processes will begin June 18, 2020 and continue until positions are filled.

Applications from individuals with direct experience in any aspect of the sex industry are especially welcome. We also encourage applications from Indigenous people, persons of colour, persons of differing abilities, and people representing diverse genders and sexualities.