



Housing Support Worker

**November 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023, with expected renewal to March 2024
(32-36 hours per week)**

Peers Victoria is a grassroots agency that has been working providing support services to people in the sex industry since 1995. Through direct service delivery and partnerships, Peers provides outreach, harm reduction, and drop-in services, as well as wellness workshops, housing support, and social justice leadership concerning sex workers rights, primarily in Victoria, the territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. We maintain a welcoming environment congruent with our values of providing harm reduction, client centered services which contribute to social justice and draw on experiential knowledge.

The CRD, in collaboration with Reaching Home has provided Peers Victoria with the opportunity for supplemental funding to support the unhoused and precariously housed community with shelter prevention and diversion, basic needs and eviction prevention support services. Reaching Home is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to Designated Communities (urban centers), Indigenous communities, territorial communities, and rural and remote communities across Canada.

The **Housing Support Worker** supports homeless people and those who are precariously housed to locate and maintain housing, as well as to assist with basic needs and eviction prevention. This position is a temporary, supplemental position which aims to provide case management support and relief to the main housing support worker at Peers. As such, this position is full-time with a regular schedule of 32-36 hours per week spread over four days primarily during regular drop-in hours (within the time frame of 10am-4pm). The individual who occupies this position can also work in the Night Outreach program one night per week. Additional casual hours could be added to this position on an as needed basis to meet training and program participant demand.

Specific duties for this position include:

- Assisting individuals to locate market, supported, and subsidized housing
- Assisting individuals to complete BC Housing and other forms related to acquiring housing and related supports
- Liaising with income assistance workers and helping program participants to connect to services and resources in the community related to employment, culture, education, social support and volunteering
- Liaising with shelter staff and other housing providers to provide collaborative support to participants
- Meeting participants in a variety of locations and contexts with flexibility and understanding of individuals' needs and abilities
- Assisting individuals with basic needs supports, including purchasing clothing, hygiene and household items
- Documentation of individual contacts and financial reporting

**Skills/Qualities:**

- Knowledgeable about local supportive and supported housing resources and policies, including those for Indigenous populations
- Familiar with Housing First models and the policies and practices entailed in this approach.
- Knowledge of a variety of local health services including hospital and community based services for a range of health needs including, but not limited to, mental health, substance use, and communicable disease
- 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
- Knowledge of local social services including those related to poverty advocacy, income and food security supports
- Strong interpersonal skills and collaborative, team oriented, ethical service approach
- Excellent documentation, organizational and time-management skills
- Commitment to applying social justice principles to health and social care
- Training and professional development in social service or health care is an asset

Job details:

- Hours: 32-36 hours per week to be carried out on primarily on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday during late mornings and afternoons with some flexibility to meet participant needs. Some flexibility will be required for Mondays and Fridays to complete required documentation and attend meetings.
- Pay rate \$26/hr or \$30/hour depending on education and experience.
- Requires a valid BC driver license and will include use of personal vehicle. Peers will pay the difference on insurance to enable a higher level of third party liability coverage.
- Must have Basic First Aid and CPR
- Vulnerable Sector Criminal Record Check required
- Position is funded through March 31, 2023 with anticipated renewal to 2024.

If you are interested in this employment opportunity, please submit a resume and covering letter that summarizes your relevant experience and skills by November 15, 2022 to peershiring@gmail.com. The posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

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 persons, persons of colour, persons of different abilities(s). and persons representing diverse genders and sexualities.