

Welcome to the Damien Center – We're so glad you are here 😊

Job Posting: Peer Housing Advocate

Overview: This role will serve as the primary connection between formerly homeless persons with HIV/AIDS and case management staff, service providers, and landlords/property managers.

Salary & Benefits: Full Time (37.50 hours) – Salary: \$15 per hour. Benefits include 12 paid holidays, Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance, Delta Dental insurance, MetLife life insurance, NYCON Flexible Spending Account, Mass Mutual Retirement with an employer match, and generous PTO (Paid Time Off) to encourage self-care.

Reports to: Housing Program Manager

Qualifications:

1. Will have direct, lived experiences with an HIV/AIDS diagnosis, and/or an addiction or a mental health diagnosis, and/or homelessness, and be comfortable talking about that experience.
2. An Associate's Degree or a combination of at least 2 years work, education, training or experience working with those who have experienced homelessness and have a disability.
3. Knowledge and skills to use community resources necessary for independent living and ability to teach those skills and provide support to other individuals.
4. Demonstrates behaviors and attitudes which support agency mission philosophy and policies and fosters cooperation and team work through use of positive/constructive communication techniques. Ability to self-manage with good interpersonal skills.
5. Valid driver's license and unrestricted use of a vehicle required.
6. Computer, e-mail, and data entry skills.
7. AIDS Institute Peer Certification a plus!!

Responsibilities:

1. Assist Housing Advocates with intensive case management to increase housing stability.
2. Maintaining ongoing, in person, contact with each tenant and provide crisis intervention to prevent reentry into homelessness. Work with tenants in both one-on-one and group settings facilitating peer supported groups, events and activities.
3. Support tenants in their efforts to establish creative community connections and assist them as they develop natural supports. Establish connections to community based activities that enhance wellness, recovery and social engagement.
4. Assist Housing Advocates in complete housing inspections, assist in apartment finding, and serve as client advocate with landlord and other service providers.
5. Provide tenants with individualized peer-to-peer support in their homes—particularly those tenants who may find it difficult to reach out and connect to their community, to help tenants learn about and protect their rights and interests.

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6. Assist individuals with accessing services, including transportation, for other services (e.g. medical services, psycho-social needs) in absence of, or in coordination with, primary case management.
 7. Participation at ACCH (Albany County Coalition on Homelessness) subcommittee meetings
 8. Provide documentation to Housing Advocates on activities for entry into HMIS and AIRS.
 9. Model and maintain appropriate professional boundaries at all times with all tenants.
 10. Fully engage in self-care to promote physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.
 11. Other duties as assigned

The Albany Damien Center's mission is to enhance the lives of people affected by HIV/AIDS in an affirming environment and to reduce new infections in the communities we serve. **Our vision** is a community where people with HIV/AIDS achieve their desired potential and are respected as coworkers, neighbors, and friends, while striving for an HIV free generation.

The Albany Damien Center is committed to building a culturally diverse staff and strongly encourages applications from minority candidates, women, persons from our LGBTQ community, persons living with HIV/AIDS, and persons formerly homeless.

To Apply: Please send 1) cover letter 2) resume and 3) list of three professional references by e-mail to careers@albanydamiencenter.org

Applications will be accepted via e-mail and are encouraged to have all attachments. Continuous recruitment until position filled.