

Want to Make a Difference? Join Our Team!

Job Posting: Peer Housing Retention Advocate

Overview:

The Peer Housing Retention Advocate provides trauma-informed, housing-first, and harm reduction support services to tenants of the Damien Center's MRT HRFA program, a scattered site, permanent supportive housing program for formerly homeless persons with HIV and other chronic illnesses. 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

Status: Full Time (37.5 hrs), Hourly, Benefits Eligible. Salary: \$43,000 - \$46,000 annual

Benefits include:

- 15 paid holidays and generous paid time off
- Health & Dental Insurance – with great coverage and low deductibles
- 403b Retirement plan with employer match
- MetLife life insurance - \$50,000
- Flexible Health Spending Account
- Continued Professional Development and Training Opportunities

Qualifications:

1. Associate degree in health or human services field or equivalent training and experience working with populations impacted by homelessness, addictions, mental health issues and/or other barriers to stable housing.
 2. Experience with Continuums of Care (CoCs) such as Albany County Coalition on Homelessness (ACCH) or other similar entities, HIV/AIDS community partners and neighborhood resources and the ability to inform and teach others how to access resources necessary for independent living.
 3. Experience working with people with HIV/AIDS and/or other chronic illness.
 4. Professional interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills and ability to interact with a wide range of personalities. An understanding of the social constructs that impact those struggling with homelessness and economic instability.
 5. Effective communication, crisis intervention, and conflict resolution skills.
 6. Able to work in and grow our agency culture, in a diverse and multicultural setting, providing trauma-informed and harm reduction services to persons of diverse backgrounds.
 7. Time management and organizational skills with ability to manage multiple tasks and priorities.
 8. Proficiency in MS Word/Excel/Outlook and E-mail. Familiarity with client services databases such as HMIS and AIRS a plus. The use of the agency Electronic Health Record database is also required.
 9. Valid, unrestricted driver's license and independent means of transportation.
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Responsibilities:

1. Assists the Housing Retention Specialist with intensive case management to increase housing stability for participants of the Damien Center MRT HRFA program.
2. Maintains ongoing contact with each tenant and provides crisis intervention to prevent reentry into homelessness. Works with tenants in both one-on-one and group settings facilitating peer supported groups, events, and activities.
3. Supports tenants in their efforts to establish creative community connections and assists them as they develop natural supports. Establishes connections to community-based activities that enhance wellness, recovery, and social engagement.
4. Provides 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.
5. Assists individuals with accessing services, including transportation, for other services (e.g., medical services, psycho-social needs) in absence of, or in coordination with, care coordinators and other case management.
6. Document and enter engagements and service encounters with tenants into the Electronic Health Records (EHR) and AIRS.
7. Respond to and report all accidents/incidents per policy and provide crisis intervention services/ verbal de-escalation techniques as needed.
8. Develop and maintain positive working relationships with medical providers, mental health and chemical dependency providers, and other social service providers. Facilitate referrals for such services and assist with applications when necessary.
9. Ensure compliance with Article 27F HIV Confidentiality Law and HIPPA confidentiality for all interactions.
10. Model and maintain appropriate professional boundaries at all times with all tenants and members.
11. Fully support and grow the Damien Center Pharmacy Program and work to support members in reducing barriers to help each person achieve durable HIV Viral Load Suppression.
12. Attend full staff meetings and meet required 24 hours of annual training.
13. Fully engage in self-care to promote physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.
14. Other duties and special projects 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.

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.
