

**Peer Support Specialist Position – Peer to Community (P2C) Model Pilot**

**Technical/Research Support 1 (Temporary Full-Time – 6-month Contract – 37.5h/week)**

\$25-34/hr commensurate with qualifications and previous experience

*The Peer to Community Model is an approach that was co-designed by persons with lived experiences of homelessness, service providers, policymakers and researchers to help provide opportunities for individuals to develop relationships and meaningful activities within the community following the experience of homelessness. The co-design of the P2C model and the pilot study aimed at evaluating this intervention has been funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. This research is being led by Dr. Carrie Anne Marshall, alongside other researchers in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Western University.*

*The Peer Support Specialist will support the P2C pilot study in Kingston, Ontario by implementing this approach alongside another peer support specialist, occupational therapist and a program assistant. Utilizing shared lived experience, Peer Support Specialists will assist program participants to create pathways to community through participant-led, participant-focused and trauma informed supports in conjunction with and under the direction of an Occupational Therapist, program assistant, and program leadership.*

**Qualifications:**

- Self-identify as a person with lived experience of being unhoused in the past, and can relate to others with similar experiences
- Have experience or an interest in learning to provide peer support
- Ability to work as part of a diverse team
- Strong ability to work collaboratively, with understanding of differing goals and perspectives
- Demonstrated ability to develop trusting relationships
- Ability to demonstrate reliability and flexibility
- Demonstrated experience working with marginalized individuals from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds
- Willingness to attend intensive training to learn about the Peer to Community Model including training in delivering effective peer support, harm reduction, trauma and violence informed care, Motivational Interviewing, suicide intervention, social enterprise, First Aid and CPR
- Sound knowledge of community resources and opportunities or a willingness to learn
- Strong verbal communication skills
- Written communication and computer skills (record keeping, documentation, utilization of databases, email)
- Willingness to provide feedback on the effectiveness and revision of the Peer to Community Model throughout the project
- Access to reliable transportation through a personal vehicle or public transportation
- A college or university degree in a health or social care discipline would be an asset

### **Responsibilities:**

- Engage in collaborative support for individuals who have been housed following homelessness
- Provide support and encouragement to participants in the development of goals related to community integration and meaningful activities
- Co-develop opportunities for social enterprise (a business venture) with other team members and program participants
- Meet with program participants weekly or more to provide support and opportunities to engage in community or meaningful activities as decided by the participant in individual or group contexts
- Facilitate connections with community opportunities and resources alongside participants and other program staff
- Meet with participants at the Peer to Community space, in their homes, or in the community as required
- Implement goals that have been identified through assessments conducted by the occupational therapist in collaboration with program participants
- Co-develop and co-facilitate groups and activities within the Peer to Community space alongside program participants
- Collaborate with community partners to assist with the development of opportunities and connections for program participants
- Practice self-care and ongoing commitment to personal well-being through recognizing personal and professional boundaries, and self-awareness
- Attend weekly meetings with all team members to debrief and receive support from other team members
- Maintain timely documentation of interactions with program participants
- Participate in research activities related to the evaluation of the Peer to Community Model, including interviews at three-month intervals during the course of the project, and ongoing assessment and supervision for motivational interviewing skills
- Other duties as required

\*Note that this position involves working in the Kingston, Ontario community

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**To apply for this position or if you have any questions about this posting, please contact Dr. Carrie Anne Marshall at [carrie.marshall@uwo.ca](mailto:carrie.marshall@uwo.ca) or apply directly at [www.recruit.uwo.ca](http://www.recruit.uwo.ca)**