



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT – PLEASE POST

POSITION TITLE:	Peer Mentor
PROGRAM:	Rose Project/Homeless Youth Services
OPENING DATE:	June 12, 2017
CLOSING DATE:	Open Until Filled
HOURS/WEEK:	20

SCHEDULE: Variable schedule each week, 20 hours.

WAGE/BENEFITS: \$11.25 per hour. This position is eligible for pro-rated benefit program including medical, dental, life & long-term disability insurance, EAP, 401(k), and paid time off. Benefit programs have varied eligibility waiting periods, depending on contract.

TO APPLY: Submit a resume and cover letter to Kimberlee Harrison, c/o 707 NE Couch St., Portland, OR 97232 or by e-mail to kharrison@janusyouth.org. Position open until filled.

Due to the volume of applications received, we regret that we can contact only those applicants who are invited to interview. If it happens that you are not contacted to arrange an interview, please know that we are grateful for your interest in employment opportunities at Janus Youth Programs.

Janus Youth Programs, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Find out more about Janus at our website, www.janusyouth.org!

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The primary role of the Peer Mentor position is to support transition-aged homeless youth (16-24), who are drug and alcohol affected and/or are experiencing mental health concerns. The Peer Mentor position uses Harm Reduction and Positive Youth Development to positively engage with, advocate for, and support youth in recovery. They also represent Janus Youth Programs, the ROSE program and the Homeless Youth Continuum in the community, acting as a model for clean and sober living, and developing visibility for the program through professional outreach to street-dependent youth. The Peer Mentor position is part of the Recovery Oriented Support and Engagement (ROSE) Project. As such, the Peer Mentor will work closely with the Specialists (Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drug, and Dual Diagnosis) to develop the program and services in a manner that assists the Homeless Youth Continuum (HYC) in fulfilling its mission of improving engagement and support of street youth considering or involved in drug and alcohol and/or mental health recovery. The Peer Mentor will also work to establish solid working relationships with the staff of the ROSE partner agencies, including Janus Youth Programs, Outside In (OI), New Avenues for Youth (NAFY), and Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA).

QUALIFICATIONS:

- GED or other high school equivalent (required).
- 1 year clean and sober time (required).
- 1 year of stable housing (required).
- Knowledge or experience of homeless youth culture.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A Peer Mentor will demonstrate professional conduct at all times. This entails showing up for work as scheduled consistently, on time, and in a condition suitable to fulfill the basic responsibilities as outlined above.
- Demonstrate cultural competency, including an understanding of street culture while blending a recovery model with a harm reduction approach, and model equity.
- Demonstrate genuine concern for young people and an ability to treat all people and agencies with dignity and respect. This includes being able to relate to homeless youth, volunteers, and staff in a manner that is open-minded and non-judgmental in relation to individual differences and diverse backgrounds.
- Stay calm, alert, and emotionally available in a high-risk on-street environment.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries in working with others in handling confidential information.
- Model and encourage direct professional communication among staff, volunteers, and peer counselors, and facilitate the development of a positive staff/volunteer/peer counselor support network.
- Work to maintain self-care and develop an individualized peer recovery plan to address the various ways that they relate as a peer.
- Serve as a role model for the principles of inclusion and tolerance.
- Participate in mobile and stationary outreach.
- Create visibility for the program by providing information on available services.
- Assist in facilitating regular pro-social clean and sober recreational activities both onsite and offsite, at various programs within the HYC.

KNOWLEDE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Knowledge or experience of issues related to substance use and/or mental health.
- Good basic youth engagement skills.
- Ability to work and interact with a diverse population.
- Commitment to continual learning and quality performance.
- Ability to maintain professional boundaries and performance at all times.
- Good communication, active listening, and conflict resolution skills.
- Willingness to receive and act upon constructive feedback.
- Ability to effectively monitor safety in a variety of environments and respond appropriately to crisis situations.
- Ability to provide auditory and visual supervision of youth.
- Ability to climb/descend at least 2 flights of stairs, with or without accommodations.
- Ability to accompany youth in the community, which may require standing and walking up to 3 hours at a time.
- Ability to carry up to 20 pounds at a time (i.e., a shoulder bag containing outreach supplies).
- Ability to consistently attend and be punctual for scheduled shifts and required meetings (including regularly scheduled supervision), and be in a condition suitable for assuming the responsibilities of the position.

- Manual/physical dexterity allowing for performance of routine office tasks, such as using the phone, filing, copying, computer use, etc.
- Flexibility to work early morning, daytime, late night, and weekend shifts as needed.
- Understand and respect culture of youth/families.
- Understand Janus Youth Programs mission, policies, and procedures.
- Understand adolescent development, including brain development.
- Understand and can implement the Positive Youth Development approach.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:

- Provides emergency first-aid, as needed, and maintains a current standard first-aid/CPR certification. (NOTE: Certification is required prior to being alone with a youth or temporarily the only staff in charge of one or more youth.)
- Must pass criminal history check.
- A valid Food Handler's Card is required within 5 days of hire.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

The working environment is both indoors within Homeless Youth Continuum agencies serving street-affected adolescents and young adults, and outdoors within the community. It is required that staff be mobile and travel to agencies within the downtown Homeless Youth Continuum to meet youth. The facility can be noisy with potential for unpredictable and potentially volatile or chaotic behaviors. There is potential exposure to communicable diseases, including the common cold, flu, tuberculosis, meningitis, hepatitis, and HIV. This position is single-staffed and will require extended periods of unsupervised work. Position may require flexibility in scheduling and adjustment of regular work hours/shifts.

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