



Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities (SCHC) is dedicated to meeting the diverse, holistic health needs of the people of Scarborough by addressing the physical, mental, social, financial and environmental aspects of their health. Through the promotion of healthy lifestyles and delivery of a comprehensive range of culturally competent health and social services, we cultivate vital and connected communities.

We are currently looking to hire a:

**Peer Support Worker
1 -Full Time, 3 Year Contract Position (35 hrs/wk)**

The Lawrence East Partnership Program is a comprehensive and collaborative support service for residents who are vulnerable and have complex needs living in two Toronto Community Housing buildings, 4175 and 4205 Lawrence Avenue East in Scarborough.

Using a hub model of service, this position will be a part of a multi-disciplinary team who will work together to ensure that skill enhancement and services are in place for residents to maintain their housing and to improve their physical, mental health, and substance use challenges.

Reporting To: Community Supports Manager

Department: Community Supports

Scope and Accountability:

The Peer Support Worker is a key member of the outreach team in two Toronto Community Housing buildings in West Hill. They will be responsible for providing peer support to residents through the lens of lived and professional experiences and in particular their involvement and recovery with mental health and/or addictions challenges. The Peer Support Worker will work with the outreach team to engage residents in a supportive manner and deliver relevant programming reflective of the community's interests.

Key Areas of Responsibility:

- Personal/lived experience in recovery from mental health and/or substance use challenges
- Participates as a member of a multi-disciplinary team by sharing personal/practical experience, knowledge and first-hand insight benefiting the team and clients
- Collaborates with others to promote a team culture that works from a client-centered, harm reduction, trauma informed and anti-oppressive approach to service
- Provides peer counselling and client support from a strengths-based perspective, in order to promote health and wellness
- Provides expertise and consultation from a mental health consumer and/or addictions recovery perspective
- Promotes awareness and supports client participation in consumer self-help programs and advocacy organizations to increase recovery
- Works with clients in one-on-one and/or group situations to promote wellness, recovery and socialization
- Promote relevant programs, services and community resources
- Supports clients in navigating mental health and/or addiction services
- Supports clients with their wellness planning and recovery process
- Identification of service gaps, and ability to support program planning and advocacy efforts
- Organize and lead individual and group social/recreational activities to increase socialization and provide skill-building opportunities

- Actively participate in stigma reduction and awareness raising of current issues in mental health and/or addiction challenges

Education and/or Professional Qualifications

- A minimum of two years' experience or equivalent combination of education and experience related to working with marginalized communities experiencing mental health and addictions challenges.
- Formal peer support training is required.

Level of Experience

- Demonstrated knowledge gained through lived experience with mental health and/or substance use challenges (Minimum 1 year in recovery is required)
- Willingness to share lived experience in a relevant and appropriate way, while maintaining peer/client boundaries as necessary
- Demonstration of an acceptable comfort level and sensitivity in working with individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness, severe mental health and/or substance use challenges

Skills and Attributes:

- Knowledge of Mental Health Act, Health Care Consent Act, social service benefits and related legislation in Ontario an asset
- Ability to work with and contribute to outreach team to obtain program goals
- Ability to seek assistance and guidance as appropriate from team members and manager
- Knowledge and understanding of low income and/or vulnerable populations in the West Hill/KGO community and complex needs of residents preferred
- Effective skills in conflict resolution, mediation, de-escalation and crisis management
- Strong communication, verbal, listening and writing skills
- Sensitivity to and awareness of cultural, racial and socio-economic diversity within the community particularly around mental health and addiction challenges
- Skills in program development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation an asset
- Proficiency in the use of computers and various software applications
- Proficiency reading and writing a second language is an asset

Significant Working Conditions:

- Comfortable working alone in the community with minimal supervision
- Working in Toronto Community Housing buildings outside regular office hours
- Working environment may include common spaces or residents homes which may not be smoke-free, may have pets or pests
- Travel between two sites will be required for this position (1 block apart)

Remuneration: \$21.31-24.11

Pay Band: I

Please note: All other conditions of employment are set out in the collective agreement between SCHC and SEIU.

Please reply in confidence to HR:

By email: hr@schcontario.ca

Note: Please quote PEERSW Position in the subject line.

Deadline: Candidates are invited to apply no later than by 5:00 pm on January 21, 2021.

All applications must be received by this date for consideration.

We would like to thank all applicants; only those invited to interviews will be contacted.

Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities is strongly committed to diversity within its community and inclusive workforce that reflects the communities that we serve. SCHC encourages applications from visible minority group members, women, aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities and members of sexual minority groups.

In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), SCHC will provide accommodation in all parts of the hiring process as required, upon request from applicants.

For more information about our programs and services, please visit our website at www.schcontario.ca.

SCHC values equity, inclusion and accessibility. We welcome those who have a demonstrated commitment to upholding these values and who will assist us to expand our capacity for diversity in the broadest sense.

We encourage applications from members of groups that have been historically disadvantaged and marginalized, including First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, Indigenous peoples of North America, racialized persons, newcomers, persons with disabilities, and those who identify as women and/or LGBTQ2S+

Please note that all qualified candidates, eligible to be employed in Canada, are encouraged to apply.

As an employer, we strive for excellence as a workplace and are committed to building a workforce that enhances our capacity to meet the needs of the diverse communities we serve. SCHC is committed to providing a barrier-free environment for all stakeholders including our clients, employees, job applicants, suppliers and any visitors who may enter our premises, access our information or use our services. We respect and uphold the requirements set forth under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, and its associated regulations.

For more information about our programs and services, please visit our website at www.schcontario.ca.