



Peer Engagement Specialist – Supportive Housing

Lantern Community Services' (Lantern) mission is to champion the independence and well-being of New Yorkers who are impacted by or threatened with homelessness. Lantern provides innovative services to help New Yorkers who are homeless, formerly homeless or have recently aged out of foster care recreate their lives. Our programs with proven results in health, employment, education and life skills are delivered inside our residences and tailored to each person's needs. We provide our clients—many of whom live with mental illness, addiction, disability, HIV or other chronic illnesses—with the tools they need to integrate successfully into the greater community with dignity and independence.

Objective:

The Peer Engagement Specialist (PES) is responsible for providing assistance to residents in recovery to live as independently as possible within a supportive housing setting. Using lived experience, the PES will help to engage residents in services and activities both internally at Lantern and in the external community. They will assist staff in the implementation of supportive housing services and build positive relationships with residents in order to maximize engagement.

Classification: Non-Exempt

Reports to: Program Director

Location: Washington Heights and Ozone Park

Position Type:

This is a part-time position with a regular daytime schedule. Lantern staff may be asked to change work schedule and hours depending on the operational needs of the site and the agency.

Essential Functions:

- Build relationships with clients leading to increased service utilization
- Carry a small caseload. Works with assigned clients to increase positive social connections and develop stronger family connections, improve life skills including obtaining necessary resources, and empower client to increase wellness self-management with an emphasis on coping skills
- Document all interactions in confidential records
- Serve as lead in developing WRAP plans with clients
- Serve as lead in developing harm reduction plans with clients
- Teach effective coping strategies and symptom management skills based on personal experience
- Promote linkage to services by assisting clients with the coordination of appointments, providing appointment reminders and escorting to appointments

- Assists with the implementation of in-house activities such as Fresh Food Box, Horticulture, Health Fairs and social activities. Engages tenants to participate in programming.
- Models skills that may assist clients in reaching their recovery goals
- Facilitate or co-facilitate psychoeducational or health education groups
- Provides guidance to staff on providing culturally competent services to individuals in recovery
- Participates in program meetings to promote efficient communication
- Participates in case conferences to promote service coordination
- Participates in monthly support/training meetings
- Meets weekly for supervision
- Collaborates with Leasing and Compliance to ensure housing stability
- Represents building's community, as appropriate, at agency and/or public meetings;
- Perform other job related duties as assigned

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Required Education and Experience:

- Peer Certification with New York State or willingness to complete within six months hire.
- Lived experience receiving services for mental health, substance use, and/or a chronic health condition and a commitment to assist others in attaining recovery and wellness goals.
- Good written and verbal communication skills; computer proficiency required.
- High School Diploma or equivalent required.
- Demonstrated ability to work in conjunction with a social services team.
- Sensitivity to issues involved in working in diverse organization is essential.

Preferred Experience:

- Bilingual skills in English/Spanish are a plus

Supervisory Responsibility: None

Work Environment: This job operates in a supportive housing site and works with a population who experiences mental illness, addiction, disability, HIV, and other chronic illnesses.

Physical Demands:

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to stand, walk, sit, stoop and/or kneel. They must also use hands to type, handle, or feel. The employee is frequently required to talk or hear and must occasionally lift and/or move up to 5 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

Some positions at Lantern Community Services have work responsibilities at more than one work site as well as field work in the community. These employees are required to travel between sites during the work day with physical demands that could include walking up to .25 miles, climbing stairs and carrying work materials that could weigh up to 8 lbs.

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Other Duties:

Please note this job description is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties, or responsibilities that are required of the employee for this job. Duties, responsibilities, and activities may change at any time with or without notice.

Note:

Lantern Community Services provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment.

Lantern Community Services (Lantern) values the diversity of all our clients, staff, Board of Directors, and partners. By bringing diverse individuals and viewpoints together, we create more vibrant, healthy and just communities. Lantern welcomes individuals of all backgrounds and experiences regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, pregnancy, religion, immigration status, veteran status, class, creed, mental or physical disability, and any other characteristic protected by federal, state, and local law.

To apply:

<https://lanterncommunity.org/about-us/careers/employment-opportunities/>