JOB TITLE: OTL Community Health Care Worker

PAY RATE: $17.00/hour

REPORTS TO: Center for Harm Reduction (CFHR) Manager

GOAL: To provide HIV/HCV/STI prevention and safer sex education, outreach, counseling/testing and linkage to care which includes some drug user health services on the SSP vans.

WHY WORK AT ACT?

At Advancing Connecticut Together (ACT), we work to improve the lives of people impacted by poverty and economic disparities, health disparities like HIV/AIDS, homelessness and substance use issues through three programmatic divisions (AIDS CT, CAHS and CFHR). We are a non-profit organization that is passionate about our work and strive to lead through innovation, make measurable progress, collaborate for greater impact, and respect the choices of our participants.

FUNCTIONS:

Outreach, Testing and Linkage (OTL)
- Create and conduct outreach, testing and linkage events to promote HIV/HCV testing and network with community members/stakeholders in local communities with a focus on Hartford county communities
- Successfully recruit and retain participants for HIV/HCV interventions
- Deliver culturally appropriate HIV/HCV/STIs and sexual health education and prevention counseling messages to community members throughout local communities
- Disseminate accurate, up-to-date information on HIV/HCV/STIs and safer sex methods
- Provide HIV/HCV testing at traditional and non-traditional settings and times, including the at-home and HIV Insti tests

Testing Together
- Screen clients to identify those eligible for Testing Together (TT), also known as Couples HIV Testing and Counseling (CHTC), a strategy used to facilitate communication and disclosure of HIV status between two or more people who are in or planning to be in a sexual relationship
- Test and counsel Testing Together participants
- Develop an individualized sexual agreement with Testing Together participants
- Provide referral services as needed (i.e. clients test HIV+, clients test discordant [different results], other services)
- Follow-up with clients as necessary

PrEP Navigation
- Assess testing clients’ appropriateness for PrEP referral
- Engage eligible clients in extensive PrEP discussion(s)
- Link client to PrEP provider, when applicable
Social Networking Strategy
- Identify and engage three HIV+ or three high-acuity community gatekeepers as recruiters to promote and attract members from their social network(s) to receive HIV/HCV testing
- Encourage recruiter(s) to send as many associates as possible for testing
- Provide appropriate incentives to recruiters

Effective Behavioral Intervention (EBI)
- Facilitate components of EBI with priority population(s) of the intervention(s)

Social Media
- Familiar with how social media influences sexual and substance use behavior
- Create innovative, culturally appropriate, sound messaging for prioritized populations
- Manage social media accounts with posts and client engagements

Syringe Services Program (SSP)
- Ability to perform daily operations of the syringe services program (SSP), including staffing the program to provide coverage when needed
- Employ culturally appropriate harm reduction methods when working with clients

Reporting, Data Collection, Other
- Collect, compile, and report accurate/appropriate, tracking data for each program and enter that data into its respective data collection system
- Other duties and responsibilities as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Knowledge of HIV/HCV/STIs, sexual health, substance use/abuse, and the harm reduction model
- Belief in harm reduction principles
- Comfortable talking with people of varying cultures, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, socioeconomic status, people who inject drugs, people living with HIV, etc.
- Comfortable working in a sex positive environment where HIV/STIs, sexual behavior and prophylaxis are routinely discussed
- Familiarity with groups disproportionately affected by substance use and HIV/HCV
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment with minimum supervision (face to face/virtual)
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and ability to effectively communicate with groups prioritized for services in their own environments to provide education on infectious conditions, prevention, risk reduction and treatment
- Creativity, flexibility and ability to work as part of a team
- Excellent time management skills
- Certified HIV/HCV tester preferred
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) preferred
- Flexibility with schedule as there may be a need for occasional weekend and evening hours
- Must have reliable transportation, a valid driver’s license and a clean driving record
- Ability to lift up to 50lbs
• Comfortable receiving and distributing syringes
• Comfortable distributing safer smoking kits, fentanyl testing strips, naloxone/Narcan, wound care kits, condoms, lubricants, etc.

WHAT WE OFFER FULL-TIME (35 hours per week) EMPLOYEES:

• Dedicated, diverse, and friendly co-workers
• 12 agency holidays
• Generous Paid Time Off (PTO) policy
• Agency-subsidized medical, dental, and vision coverage and 100% paid short-term/long-term/life insurance
• 403(b) retirement plan with employer match of 100% up to 3% of pay
• Free off-street parking

SOUND LIKE A GOOD FIT?

If so, please send your thoughtful cover letter and resume to apply@act-ct.org with “OTL Community Health Care Worker” in the subject line. Resumes received without a compelling personalized cover letter will not be considered. Candidates will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Due to the anticipated volume of responses, we will contact only those top candidates who most closely match our requirements.

Advancing CT Together, Inc. celebrates diversity and inclusion and is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.