**JOB OPENING: FULL TIME HARM REDUCTION PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST**

The Chris Atwood Foundation (CAF) is a grassroots, community-based harm reduction and addiction recovery organization in Northern Virginia. We are seeking a full time Peer Support Specialist who will be responsible for outreach to and service provision for people at risk for, or affected by: opioid overdose, substance use disorder, HIV/AIDS, and hepatitis in Northern Virginia. Applicants must live in, or be willing to relocate to this area. This position will work with both individuals in active substance use and individuals in recovery and must be comfortable with both.

This position will assist participants to reduce the harms caused by substance use, improve their quality of life, and meet their own individualized positive-change goals. Candidate must be in recovery from substance use disorder and understand how and where to network with people who use drugs and be able to win their trust. This position is highly independent and responsible for finding and creating innovative outreach strategies. Candidates must believe in harm reduction philosophy and be comfortable providing our clients with sterile syringes and other safer use supplies.

The work requires travel throughout the Northern Virginia area with mileage reimbursed. Locations may include homes, shelters, religious organizations, motels, parking lots, businesses, and community/government agencies. A valid driver’s license, personal vehicle, and internet access are required. Some evening and weekend availability is required. This is a field-based position. The position starts at $40,000-$42,000 per year depending on experience.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

* Locate and connect with individuals who use drugs or are in recovery, winning their trust through compassion and non-judgmental support.
* Work with participants to create individualized health goals and coach them on achieving those goals, documenting progress.
* Provide overdose reversal training, narcan, sterile syringes, and other safer use supplies to individuals at-risk for overdose, HIV, and HCV.
* Conduct HIV and HCV testing in the field, training provided.
* Provide appropriate referrals for behavioral health care, basic health care, legal support and other services as needed.
* Assist with general navigation of the health care system, including assisting participants to enroll in Medicaid, and helping with transportation to scheduled appointments.
* Provide supportive counselling and crisis intervention.
* Maintain contact with participants via phone, text, video chat, or in-person
* Complete all necessary documentation and tracking for grant purposes
* Comply with agency policies and procedures and HIPAA regulations
* Other related duties as required

**Requirements - Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

* Certification as a peer support specialist preferred, but not required
* Knowledge of Harm Reduction and the needs of persons living with substance use disorder, HIV/AIDS, or Hepatitis C.
* Reliable, disciplined, and self-starting. Must have the ability to manage one’s time effectively to work independently and remotely
* Must be goal-oriented and able to meet the required number of individuals served as set by our grant contracts.
* Experience with drug use and drug using communities.
* Exceptional boundaries and commitment to self-care
* Current relationships with individuals in the drug-using community is preferred.
* Ability to work with challenging participants. Confidence in dealing with individuals under the influence, in crisis, distress, and dealing with trauma.
* Ability to work with individuals of varying ethnicities, socio-economic levels, cultures, and sexual orientations.
* Culturally competent and sensitive.
* High ethical standards and professionalism with a demonstrated ability to maintain confidentiality.
* Ability to analyze and troubleshoot difficult problems.

**TO APPLY, PLEASE SEND A SHORT COVER LETTER DETAILING YOUR INTEREST IN THE POSITION ALONG WITH YOUR RESUME TO** **SONYA@THECAF.ORG**

*The CAF is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, criminal background, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.*