



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT PEER NAVIGATOR

Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services (DRDC), a nonprofit protection and advocacy agency that advances the rights of DC residents with disabilities, seeks a Peer Navigator for the Jail and Prison Advocacy Project (JPAP). The Peer Navigator is responsible for providing hands-on assistance to people with mental illness and/or intellectual disabilities who are returning from periods of incarceration. Our goal is to promote the successful integration into the community of DC residents with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

As a member of the JPAP team, the Peer Navigator will provide peer support to returning citizens as they work to get acclimated to living in the community, including accessing services and supports, addressing barriers to reentry, and empowering clients to advocate for themselves. Responsibilities include:

- ❑ Link clients with services, resources and benefits, helping to fill out applications when needed; provide transportation training and assistance; accompany clients to mental health and other appointments to facilitate their engagement and follow through as needed.
- ❑ Prepare, advise and assist clients to assert their rights within the criminal and mental health systems, including preparation for testifying about or sharing their stories in the community.
- ❑ Coordinate treatment and reentry planning with other community providers to ensure goal-directed, collaborative care; advocate with service providers as needed.
- ❑ Advise clients on self-help strategies and connect with peer-based recovery supports.
- ❑ Conduct outreach activities, including home and community-based visits, to facilitate client engagement in services.
- ❑ Provide crisis intervention and follow-up.
- ❑ Document all client activities in progress notes; manage files; and complete database entry to measure program outcomes.
- ❑ Provide administrative support to the team by collecting medical records; contacting facilities to schedule calls; locating clients that are difficult to reach; supervising inventory of client goods for monthly distributions and welcome home bags (e.g., toiletries, socks, backpacks, snacks), and maintaining and updating training and outreach materials.
- ❑ Participate in outreach and training activities to educate other service providers, community stakeholders, and volunteers about the special needs of returning citizens with disabilities and advocate for a seamless service system.

Compensation: The Peer Navigator will work full-time for a competitive non-profit salary, based on experience, plus benefits, which include full medical insurance, vacation, sick leave and other benefits.

220 I Street, NE, Suite 130
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547-0198 Fax: (202) 547-2662 TTY: (202) 547-2657

QUALIFICATIONS

- ❑ Required: Peer specialist certification (e.g., Dept of Behavioral Health program or something similar or minimum 2 years' experience in social services or related field).
- ❑ Required: Willingness to self-identify as a person who has lived experience with incarceration and/or as a consumer of mental health services.
- ❑ Required: Ability to communicate and build rapport with individuals who have extensive trauma histories; serious and persistent mental illness, intellectual and other developmental disabilities; substance use disorders; identify as LGBTQIA+; and criminal legal system involvement, and who are predominantly low-income BIPOC individuals.
- ❑ Required: Ability to work effectively as a proactive member of an interdisciplinary team. Demonstrated competence in verbal, written, organizational and prioritization skills. Strong problem-solving skills and ability to troubleshoot challenging situations.
- ❑ Preferred: Experience working with people with mental illness, substance use disorders, intellectual disabilities and histories of trauma.
- ❑ Preferred: Knowledge of DC social services resources and ability to build relationships with providers.

HOW TO APPLY

All applicants must *briefly* respond to the following three questions within a cover letter or in a separate essay (maximum 2 pages total):

- 1) What are your personal or professional motivations behind working in the criminal legal system/disability rights field?
- 2) What do you believe is one change in DC's criminal legal system that could help returning citizens the most?
- 3) What do you believe is one change in DC's behavioral health system that could help returning citizens the most?

Please send your responses together with a resume and list of references (Email preferred) no later than January 30, 2023 to:

Tammy Seltzer
DC Jail & Prison Advocacy Project
220 I Street, NE, Suite 130, Washington, DC 20002
tseltzer@uls-dc.org
No calls please

Applications will be considered as soon as they are received, so apply as soon as possible.

ULS values diversity of culture, disability and other life experiences, and is an equal opportunity employer by choice. People with personal experience in the criminal legal system and/or behavioral health system are welcome and encouraged to apply.