



## 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.

The Peer Navigator is part of an interdisciplinary team focused on client-centered advocacy. This position is a full-time, in-person position without the option for remote work.

Responsibilities include:

- ❑ Help clients advocate for their needs and access resources
- ❑ Conduct surveys to gauge satisfaction with our services and needs of clients.
- ❑ Participate in community engagement activities and coalitions.
- ❑ Accompany clients to meetings and appointments as needed.
- ❑ Mentor and teach clients essential skills, such as how to use transportation and technology.
- ❑ Update resources and handouts
- ❑ Assist clients in fulfilling the self-determined reentry plan they created with their Reentry Advocate
- ❑ Complete tasks assigned by Reentry Advocates, Supervising Attorney, and Director

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.

## QUALIFICATIONS

- ❑ Required: Applicant needs to be comfortable sharing and discussing personal experiences with incarceration and mental health
- ❑ Required: Familiarity with DC area and community services
- ❑ Required: Positive attitude
- ❑ Required: Familiarity with Microsoft Office and willingness to learn more if necessary
- ❑ Required: Ability to communicate and build rapport with individuals who have extensive trauma histories; serious and persistent mental illness, intellectual and other developmental

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

disabilities; substance use disorders; identify as LGBTQIA+; and criminal legal system involvement, and who are predominantly low-income BIPOC individuals.

- ❑ Preferred: 3 years since last incarceration
- ❑ Preferred: Peer specialist certification (e.g., Dept of Behavioral Health program or something similar or minimum 2 years' experience in social services or related field) or willingness to complete a peer specialist certification program

## **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 with disabilities the most?
- 3) What do you believe is one change in DC's behavioral health system that could help prevent people with disabilities from involvement in the criminal legal system?

**Please send your responses together with a resume and list of references (Email preferred) no later than December 6, 2023 to:**

Tammy Seltzer  
DC Jail & Prison Advocacy Project  
220 I Street, NE, Suite 130, Washington, DC 20002  
[tseltzer@uls-dc.org](mailto: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.*