

Job Posting/Description

POSITION: Full Time-Peer Support Worker for Youth for Change Program

POSITION SUMMARY: We are seeking to hire a **Full-Time Peer Support Worker** who will work for the “Youth for Change” program which aims to increase the participation of youth and community members in promoting sensitive conversations surrounding substance use and mental health concerns existing within the communities of the Northwest Toronto Region.

DETAILED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Over the years, Midaynta has been working with Black and racialized youth to bridge the gaps in services by providing specialized programs that are culturally appropriate. Midaynta’s “Youth for Change” program aims to reduce accessibility barriers faced by Black youth and families to addiction services. The project hopes to increase access to culturally appropriate addiction services and awareness and knowledge about substance use and addiction concerns. It also aims to reduce the stigma associated with substance use and poor mental health which hinders youth to seek the help they need to achieve their goals.

MAIN PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- Conduct a series of evidence-based workshops led by area experts to support educating youth and raising awareness on the impacts of substance use in the community and quality of life. This would enable youths to understand the realities and the harms associated with prolonged substance use and make informed decisions for themselves.
- Create a safe space for youth to talk about substance use through a harm reduction lens in a therapeutic setting. This one-on-one counselling environment shall be guided by dismantling the stigma associated with addiction concerns, actively facilitating trauma-informed care, and through the usage of a harm reduction lens.
- Form relationships with organizations to provide holistic/wrap-around services that specialize in providing culturally appropriate specific resources and healing for youth that is focused on substance use goals. Services should be culturally-sensitive about the risk factors faced by Black communities such as poverty, low education attainment, lack of opportunities, social alienation, youth violence, and radicalization and exclusion.
- Initiate a platform for youth and parents to engage in dialogue surrounding substance use, the struggles associated with peer pressure, and violence that youth experience that is a leading cause of using substances as means to cope with those traumatic memories/experiences. Focus group dialogues between parents and youth will aim to address their needs through a strength-based perspective.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Serve as a peer support expert in substance abuse prevention matters
- Work within the community to mobilize youth and families to facilitate the project in the various facets as listed in the description
- Provide one-on-one sessions with youth to address their concerns through establishing SMART goals and utilizing client-centered and solution-focused approaches
- Run a monthly focus group led by a facilitator with youth and parents of the community to discuss well-being and safety as it pertains to substance use and addictions. These focus groups will incorporate discussion and education and help answer questions and provide information, tips and safety measures pertaining to substance use and abuse.
- Evaluate curricula and other educational materials related to substance abuse prevention
- Prepare and present oral and written materials convincingly, clearly and logically
- Assist with conducting community outreach regarding events, workshops, focus groups, guest speakers, and volunteer opportunities through physical flyers, newsletters, social media and email broadcasts.
- Plan and host a community exhibition after the workshop series in which youth will have the opportunity to share their knowledge through projects inspired by substance use prevention program. This expo will include youth projects from all mediums. Youth will be welcomed to participate through digital creative media, written essays, journals poetry, artwork, posters, flyers, etc.
- Partner with local organizations that specialize in substance prevention and intervention for youth in order to share resources and further learning opportunities.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REQUIRED:

- Strong knowledge of the effects of drug and alcohol abuse and substance abuse treatment programs and prevention methods and techniques
- Excellent peer support and youth engagement skills
- Working knowledge of the principles and practices of a community organization to enhance awareness and responsiveness to substance abuse prevention
- Strong knowledge of culturally appropriate community resources and organizations
- Knowledge of program development and evaluation
- Working knowledge of education methods and materials including teaching methods and curricula design
- Possess communication and workshop facilitation skills
- Has ability to evaluate needs and design and implement substance abuse prevention forums and programs

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Any combination of training and experience, which would provide the required knowledge and abilities, is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the listed knowledge and abilities would be:

- Completion of two years of college-level courses in social science, sociology and psychology or closely related courses and two years of relevant experience. We also greatly prefer candidates having lived experience.

POSITION DETAILS:

- Full time position (35 hours per week), flexible hours required (including evenings and weekends)
- *Total Vacancies:* 1
- *Duration:* 15-month contract

Qualified Individuals are invited to send their resume and cover letter to info@midaynta.com by **September 14th, 2022.**

Only those candidates selected for the interview will be contacted.

**The Hiring Committee,
Midaynta Community Services,
2150 Islington Avenue, Suite # 209,
Toronto M9P 3V4,
Fax # (416) 440-3379
E-mail to info@midaynta.com**