

Iowa Harm Reduction Coalition

Harm Reduction Outreach Specialist PT

Position

The Harm Reduction Outreach Specialist is a Des Moines, IA based position with the Iowa Harm Reduction Coalition (IHRC). This part-time position involves a combination of street-based, fixed-site, and mobile outreach to people who use/inject substances in Central Iowa communities, and coordination of advocacy initiatives within drug user communities.

Description of Duties

- Participate in a mix of street and fixed site (office) based harm reduction outreach.
- Lead a team of volunteers.
- Provide access to safer injection materials.
- Provide access to overdose prevention materials + naloxone.
- Identify new outreach sites and work with community members to advertise outreach activities to directly impacted people.
- Be culturally aware of people who use drugs and respect their decisions (Peer Recovery Certificate or willing to be trained).
- Provide community based STI/HIV/hepatitis prevention education to MSM, drug users, sex workers and those at high risk of getting sexually transmitted infections.
- Provide safer drug use and safer sexual health education.
- Provide referrals to medication assisted treatment, detox, other substance use treatment services, housing programs, and health care services.
- Distribute STI/HIV/HCV prevention materials.
- Provide information about HIV/HCV/STI care and treatment services.
- Conduct Medicaid enrollment, rapid re-housing screening, and buprenorphine treatment eligibility assessment.
- Document all client interactions and enter all participant data into the reporting system.
- Administer HIV / HCV counseling and testing, and provide referrals to treatment (phlebotomy certificate or willing to be trained).
- Engage, mobilize, and organize community members and IHRC clients to participate in syringe access and harm reduction advocacy activities.
- Participate in staff meetings and board meetings in person or by phone / web and participate in monthly staff meetings.
- Advance professional knowledge of drug policy and public health policy through participation in webinars, attending national and regional harm reduction conferences, maintaining relationships with national-level organizations.
- Compile naloxone and safer injection kits.
- Maintain strict confidentiality and treat all clients and participants non-judgmentally and with positive regard.

Qualifications

- We are specifically looking for candidates with an active interest in Harm Reduction, and social justice as it pertains to individuals who use drugs, do sex work and/or are at risk for HIV, hepatitis, overdose, or incarceration.
- Must be able to work independently. IHRC employees often work remotely and employees must be able to be organized, self-motivated team-players, with strong interpersonal skills, excellent written and oral communication skills, and the ability and willingness to be hands-on and solve problems as they arise.
- Must demonstrate commitment to harm reduction principles and to working with people who use drugs in a multicultural, multi-racial environment in a non-judgmental manner.
- Fluent in Microsoft Office applications.
- Must be able to work flexible hours.
- Must have a valid driver's license and auto insurance.
- People who are HIV/hepatitis positive/undetectable, lived experience of drug use, sex work, or incarceration are strongly encouraged to apply.

IHRC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. People of color, the LGBTQIA+ community, and individuals who have personal experience with drug use, sex work, HIV, HCV, overdose, and incarceration are strongly encouraged to apply. IHRC does not discriminate based on one's record of incarceration.