



Position	Harm Reduction/Addictions Specialist	Classification	Non-Exempt
Reports To	Director of Outreach		
Department	Outreach	Salary Range	\$45,000-\$53,000

ABOUT MIRIAM'S KITCHEN

Miriam's Kitchen works to end chronic homelessness in Washington, DC. We advocate for permanent supportive housing as a long-term solution, while meeting short-term needs by providing healthy meals and high-quality social services to individuals who are chronically homeless.

ABOUT THE POSITION

Focusing on unsheltered individuals with substance use issues, the Harm Reduction/Addictions Specialist will conduct outreach to a caseload of high-priority unsheltered people experiencing homelessness, administer VI-SPDAT assessments, help individuals collect identification documents in an effort to become "document ready," and facilitate the housing process by acting as a liaison between the targeted individual and housing provider in a variety of settings. The Harm Reduction/Addictions Specialist will specialize in providing motivational interviewing, Harm Reduction/Addictions interventions, and other recovery supports and referrals to individuals on their caseload with substance use disorders. The Harm Reduction/Addictions Specialist will also provide consultation for the entire Outreach Team on Harm Reduction/Addictions best practices as they engage unsheltered individuals and connect them to housing and critical support services.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide housing match services to a primary caseload of high-priority people to facilitate the housing process and ensure successful housing placement.
- Provide outreach, case management, and housing navigation services in any setting necessary, including streets, shelters, hospitals, jails, and encampments.
- Conduct Harm Reduction/Addictions interventions with appropriate clients.
- Support agency-wide overdose education, prevention, training, and reporting.
- Provide "light-touch" and "intensive" outreach services as appropriate.
- Provide referrals to medical, mental health, and substance use services as needed.
- Assist targeted people with applying for identification documents, entitlements, and other benefits.
- Build rapport and utilize motivational interviewing strategies to support vulnerable people with moving through the stages of change and accepting an offer of housing as well as treatment for substance use issues.
- Access the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to input VI-SPDAT assessments and upload people's identification documents.
- Utilize computerized databases to maintain written and computerized records, compile reports, and complete other program documentation (e.g. case notes), while maintaining appropriate confidentiality of client information.
- All other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Strong interest in and commitment to ending chronic homelessness in DC.
- An understanding of the structural and systemic causes of homelessness.
- Comfort working with a diverse population with a variety of backgrounds and lived experiences.
- Familiarity with the homeless services and housing landscape in Washington, DC.
- Spanish proficiency preferred.
- Specialist knowledge in Harm Reduction/Addictions, including Narcan administration and overdose response.
- Comfortable operating computers, inputting information into a database, and documenting case notes.
- Strong communication skills and sense of boundaries.
- Able to work productively independently *and* collaboratively as part of a diverse, tight-knit team.
- Able to navigate DC via public transportation and on foot.
- Able to work in a variety of settings, including streets, parks, shelters, hospitals, jails, and encampments.
- Able to handle physically demanding work – to include but not limited to: standing and/or walking up to 6 hours per day, conducting street outreach in all types of weather.
- Must be able to lift and/or carry up to 20 lbs.

Experience

- 1-2 years of experience working in services for homelessness, mental health, substance use, or HIV/AIDS.
- Accreditation as a Certified Addiction Counselor with an Associate's degree and 1+ years of direct experience in the Harm Reduction/Addictions field; or
- Bachelor's degree (Master's preferred) in a behavioral health field with 2+ years of direct experience in the Harm Reduction/Addictions field.

To Apply: Please submit your resume and cover letter to jobs4@miriamskitchen.org with "HARM REDUCTION/ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST" in the subject line.