



Southwest Ontario
Aboriginal Health
Access Centre

Indigenous Outreach Worker(s) x 2

Status: Full-time

Primary Location: Owen Sound

Posting Date: September 11, 2019

Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC) is a diverse, dynamic, multiservice Indigenous health and wellness agency. We strive to provide quality, wholistic health services by sharing and promoting traditional and western health practices to enable people to live in a more balanced state of well-being. The Centre provides services to Indigenous people including those who live on and off reserve, status, non-status, Inuit, and Metis within the southwest region. SOAHAC has a mandate of ensuring that health services are accessible, of high quality, and are culturally appropriate. We are also mandated to build health care capacity within Indigenous communities. Currently, we are seeking the services of **2 x Indigenous Outreach Worker (IOW)** to join our interdisciplinary staff team to work at our **Owen Sound site**.

The Role: Reporting to the Integrated Care Manager, the **Indigenous Outreach Workers** will be responsible for outreach support services, landlord support services and financial distribution to clients.

Experience: A professional in health or social sciences experience in counselling clients that are or close to homeless, creating and fostering partnerships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous housing related agencies such as landlords, shelters and other related housing partners. Experience working with Indigenous people in community-based settings is necessary.

Requirements (Knowledge, Skills and Abilities):

- 3-year Diploma or Degree in applied health or social sciences (i.e. Social Work, Psychology, Nursing) with a focus on counselling and psychosocial rehabilitation and/or Indigenous specific studies relevant to this position.
- Membership in a professional college or association is preferred such as Social Worker or Nursing.
- Knowledge of Indigenous values, traditions, culture with understanding of local Indigenous populations in Grey Bruce region.
- Minimum of three years recent and relevant clinical experience in adult community mental health services (supportive housing, case management or community psychiatric nursing)
- Knowledge of psychosocial rehabilitation theory and the impact of mental illness on Indigenous individuals and on their families and community.
- Thorough understanding of Indigenous people, mental illness and inter-generational trauma, trauma informed practice in making appropriate assessment of housing needs.
- Demonstrated ability to work well with peers, colleagues from other agencies, and with various consumer and stakeholder groups.

- Training and experience related to concurrent disorders would be a definite asset
- Familiarity with treatment culturally relevant principles and techniques that apply across the continuum of psychosocial rehabilitation and mental health services, including case management.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Experience in teaching and training adults (Life Skills Coach certificate would be an asset)
- Sound judgement, particularly with respect to high risk or sensitive situations.
- Strong team skills and ability to work well with community and professional groups
- Maturity, sound judgement, a good sense of humour and ability to work well under pressure
- An understanding and appreciation of rural Indigenous communities.
- Proficiency in use of personal computers for email, data entry and word processing
- Must have a valid driver's licence and the use of a personal vehicle
- A current Police Vulnerable Sector Check is a condition of employment
- A current Immunization record; proof of immunization is a condition of employment
- Willingness to participate in ongoing cultural learning and traditional teachings

Responsibilities:

- Provide a range of Outreach support services that promote wholistic wellbeing for those with experiencing homelessness, at risk of homeless or in a crisis situation with a focus on Indigenous clients facing difficulty in discharge from hospital for reasons of lack of safe and secure housing options.
- Provide financial aid to those needing short term financial support for personal services such as prescription medication costs, physiotherapy services, transportation, food vouchers, etc.
- Provide a range of opportunities for clients to learn daily life and living skills, while increasing their sense of community and belonging and connection to culture and traditions as necessary.
- Provide comprehensive culturally appropriate assessment and culturally relevant service plans.
- Educate clients about their tenant rights and responsibilities.
- Contribute to the coordination, planning and enhancement of local services, including those from Indigenous agencies and partners.
- Support the implementation of realistic and culturally relevant goals and objectives through regular community and home visits.
- Act as an advocate on clients' behalf
- Access and utilize community resources for clients (i.e. furniture acquisition, household supplies, food banks, etc...)

This job may require additional responsibilities and duties as assigned by Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre.

Please Note: This position is subject to annual funding and is full-time @ 35 hours (5 days) per week. Salary is subject to experience. Comprehensive benefit and pension package included. The primary location will be Owen Sound site with regular travel to surrounding communities within Grey Bruce region as required to effectively fulfill the responsibilities of the position.

SOAHAC values diversity and is an equal opportunity employer; however, hiring preference will be given to qualified Indigenous applicants. SOAHAC is committed to providing employment accommodation in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. If you require accommodation to apply or if selected to participate in an assessment process, please advise Human Resources.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please forward your cover letter, resume, and names of 3 references on the closing date to:

Email: careers@soahac.on.ca

Subject line : **Indigenous Outreach Worker, Owen Sound**

Attention: **Anna-Marie Evans
Human Resources Manager
Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre
425 - 427 William Street
London, ON N6B 3E1**

Closing Date: **September 25, 2019**

Please visit **Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre** online at: www.soahac.on.ca or like us on www.facebook.com/soahac to learn more about us!

We thank all those for applying but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.