

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

Community Outreach Worker (Opioid Crisis Initiatives)

Nature of Work/Overview

This is a full-time, two-year contracted position with the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). The community outreach worker will provide education and resources to communities in Allegheny County that have been affected by the opioid overdose crisis. This role will focus on teaching first responders, community members and other stakeholders about harm reduction resources, evidence-based addiction treatment, and other related services.

This role will require travel to many locations within Allegheny County, some of which cannot be easily accessed by public transportation. Some evening and weekend work will be required. Please note that this is not a permanent position and therefore not eligible for Allegheny County benefits. Temporary positions or contractor positions are administered and paid through a separate employment agency or by independent contract.

ACHD's opioid crisis initiatives are housed within the Bureau of Public Policy and Community Relations. Using the principles of stigma reduction, health equity and social determinants of health, these initiatives work to reduce overdose deaths and improve health and wellbeing in communities that have been negatively affected by opioids and addiction. These efforts fall within 5 focus areas: prevention, treatment access, community impact, harm reduction, and recovery support.

Typical Duties

Duties will include but are not limited to:

- Training various stakeholders on Narcan administration and other harm reduction strategies
- Developing educational materials and presentations related to addiction, treatment access & referral, stigma, and harm reduction
- Building relationships with first responders, community leaders and other partners, and working with them to identify ways to support those negatively impacted by opioid use and addiction
- Organizing & conducting door-to-door outreach in communities with high overdose rates
- Using data to prioritize work in communities with the greatest need
- Supporting community-based Narcan distribution & tracking overdose reversals
- Representing ACHD at meetings with partners and tabling at community events
- Assisting with administrative tasks, such as creating newsletters, managing spreadsheets, updating the community calendar, etc.

Desired Skills & Qualities

The ideal candidate for this position will have a strong understanding of the complexities of Allegheny County, harm reduction strategies, addiction, stigma, and health equity. They will also have experience with:

- Public speaking & storytelling
- Community outreach (especially door-to-door)
- Computer applications (especially Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, and applications for creating surveys)
- Solving problems independently and finding creative solutions
- Working as part of a team
- Engaging underserved communities
- Adapting messages & educational approaches for a wide range of audiences, such as:
 - o community leaders
 - o nonprofit staff
 - o police
 - o EMS
 - o people in recovery
 - o people who use drugs
 - o friends/family of people who use drugs
 - o concerned community members

Desired Education/Work Experience

Those with the ability to succeed in this role will typically have:

- Relevant work experience in community outreach, public health education, addiction treatment, social work or related fields
- A Bachelor's or Master's degree in public health, social work, public policy, psychology, education, or related fields

Interested candidates with experience working with people affected by opioid overdose and addiction are encouraged to apply regardless of education level.

Compensation

- Annual salary: \$40,000

How to Apply

Interested candidates are invited to submit a brief cover letter (optional) and a resume/CV (required) to JoEllen Marsh at JoEllen.Marsh@alleghenycounty.us. Please use the subject line: "Community Outreach Worker." Please note that this is a contract-only position and that although the individual will be working on projects for the Allegheny County Health Department under the supervision of Allegheny County Health Department staff, the individual will not be hired as a County employee.