



## **URBAN JUSTICE CENTER MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT TEMPORARY HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE POSITION**

The Urban Justice Center Mental Health Project (MHP) seeks a temporary advocate to conduct community outreach and presentations, provide information about health care options, and advocate for access to health care for people with mental health concerns.

### **Who Are We?**

MHP is a team of attorneys, social workers, advocates, and peer specialists dedicated to disrupting and dismantling the cycle of hospitalization, homelessness, and incarceration that traps low-income New Yorkers with serious mental health concerns. We intervene at all parts of this cycle: we work to secure financial and medical benefits to prevent homelessness and hospitalization; we provide peer advocacy and social work support to empower clients in the community; we collaborate on impact litigation; we ensure proper discharge planning occurs prior to release from jail and psychiatric hospitals; we connect people to the appropriate organizations through advice and referrals; and we host community workshops to educate people about their rights and how to advocate for themselves and their peers.

### **Job Summary**

MHP is part of a network of community-based organizations recently funded by the New York City Council to help low-income New Yorkers resolve health insurance problems and navigate financial barriers that prevent them from accessing care. We conduct community outreach and presentations throughout the five boroughs for the mental health community. This is a temporary position starting immediately through June 30, 2020.

### **Responsibilities include:**

- Conducting telephone and in-person outreach to community organizations;
- Giving presentations and tabling at community events at least once per month;
- Connecting current MHP clients to mental health treatment;
- Answering calls from potential clients and conducting intake;
- Entering all client information into computer databases;
- Providing basic information about health care options to callers; and
- Advocating on behalf of clients who need access to health care, as needed.

### **Qualifications include:**

- A Bachelor's degree **OR** New York State Peer Certification;
- Basic knowledge of health insurance options for low-income New Yorkers;
- Experience with or ability to quickly learn how to enter client data into computer databases;
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to maintain confidentiality and to work with people living with mental health concerns;
- Ability to work independently, manage a high caseload, to be flexible, meet deadlines, and to communicate professionally with other MHP employees and volunteers;
- Excellent organizational skills and meticulous attention to detail; and
- Proficiency in Spanish or another foreign language is preferred, but not required.

**Benefits/Compensation:**

Salary is based on experience. The Urban Justice Center offers a flexible work environment and a highly competitive benefits package that includes vacation, personal, and sick time; medical and dental coverage; vision and gym reimbursements; and a 401(k) plan.

**How to Apply:**

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Rachel Gerson via email: [rgerson@urbanjustice.org](mailto:rgerson@urbanjustice.org). Please write "Health Care Advocate" in the email subject line. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Priority will be given to applications received by February 7, 2020. Due to high volume, we are unable to respond to all applicants. We will contact only those candidates selected for further consideration.

The Urban Justice Center is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, religion/creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, military status, predisposing genetic characteristics, victim of domestic violence status, or marital status. People with lived experience of mental health concerns and/or criminal legal system involvement are encouraged to apply.