



Mental  
Health  
Project

## URBAN JUSTICE CENTER MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT SOCIAL WORK POSITION

The Urban Justice Center Mental Health Project (MHP) seeks a social worker with strong advocacy skills to work with clients with mental health concerns in our interdisciplinary legal practice

### 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 and Qualifications

The social worker will be part of an interdisciplinary team that provides advocacy services for low-income adults with mental health concerns. MHP's services currently include supportive housing applications, shelter advocacy, eviction prevention, discharge planning from psychiatric hospitals, and apply for government benefits. The Mental Health Project seeks a candidate with the following qualifications:

- Strong anti-oppressive, anti-racist, and social justice analysis and lens;
- Excellent advocacy skills;
- Strong time-management skills, detail oriented, and efficient in prioritizing tasks;
- Commitment and experience to providing client-centered and trauma-informed advocacy and case management services;
- An understanding and openness to using harm reduction approaches in client work;
- Great communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to be collaborative and work with a team
- Strong writing and verbal skills;
- Proficiency in Spanish is strongly preferred, but not required.
- **Masters of Social Work (MSW) degree.**



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### **Responsibilities:**

- Provide direct advocacy services and crisis management for MHP's clients entering or in the shelter system, searching for housing, or needing to establish income;
- Apply for supportive housing using the HRA 2010E application;
- Help clients obtain Medicaid, Food Stamps, Public Assistance and/or other government benefits for which they are eligible;
- Answering and documenting calls routed to MHP's discharge planning warmline;
- Maintain client records in physical files and electronic databases;
- Providing community education for peers and trainings for providers;
- Other social work tasks as needed to serve MHP's clients.

### **Benefits/Compensation:**

Salary is DOE. 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.

This is a bargaining unit position represented for collective bargaining purposes by the National Organization of Legal Services Workers, UAW, Local 2320.

### **How to Apply:**

To apply send a cover letter and resume to Rosa Jaffe via e-mail: [rjaffe@urbanjustice.org](mailto:rjaffe@urbanjustice.org). Please write "Social Work Position" in the e-mail subject line. Applications will be viewed on a rolling basis. Priority will be given to applications received by Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. 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, SOGIE, 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 justice involvement are encouraged to apply.