

RAPE VICTIM ADVOCATES
Austin Youth Educator & Counselor
Job Posting

Position Title: Austin Youth Educator & Counselor (full-time, exempt)

Reports to: Director of Education and Training & Director of Counseling Services

Salary Range: \$37,000 - \$39,000, commensurate with experience

Benefits: HMO, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance fully covered by employer. Generous Holiday, Vacation and Sick time.

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Rape Victim Advocates (RVA) is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the healing and empowerment of sexual assault survivors through non-judgmental crisis intervention counseling, individual and group counseling, and medical and legal advocacy in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. RVA provides public education and institutional advocacy in order to improve the treatment of sexual assault survivors and to effect positive change in policies and public attitudes toward sexual assault. Established in 1974, RVA now serves over 2000 survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones annually through our main office in downtown Chicago and our community-based offices in Austin, Ravenswood and on the Stroger Hospital campus.

GENERAL ROLE DESCRIPTION

The Austin Youth Educator & Counselor will participate, plan, and promote activities in Austin that will increase visibility around the issue of sexual violence. With a focus on children and youth, the Austin Youth Educator & Counselor will develop roots on the Westside and engage with schools to provide rape crisis services to young people. This position will have three major goals: community outreach, individual/group counseling, and prevention education. Austin has become a lively Chicago neighborhood when it comes to community activism. The Austin Youth Educator & Counselor will create youth based events (e.g. art-making workshop), provide education to the youth and parents on sexual assault prevention and intervention, and personally counsel any youth that make a disclosure of sexual violence. The Austin Youth Educator & Counselor position will increase community visibility, increase violence prevention efforts, and increase supportive healing services for survivors.

This position will receive clinical supervision through the Director of Counseling Services and task supervision from the Director of Education and Training. This position requires masters-level education in the field of counseling or social work as well a strong background in working with children/youth.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide prevention education to area primary, middle and high schools (public and private), youth-serving agencies.
2. Provide individual counseling, family counseling, and support groups for children and adolescents ages 5-16 and their family members.
3. Provide in-person support, crisis intervention and information and referrals to sexual assault survivors and their significant others.
4. Maintain a caseload of counseling clients appropriate to level of employment and program needs.
5. Assess/screen individuals to determine appropriate level of intervention and services.
6. Develop and maintain network of community members and service providers on Westside.
7. Conduct community outreach, identifying and participating in community events, forums, and meetings as necessary to maintain the agency's awareness of issues impacting residents and the visibility of the agency's services.
8. Provide prevention education to priority communities such as faith, LGBTQ, and Austin community areas.
9. Provide school-based counseling services.
10. Conduct institutional advocacy/outreach to area primary, middle and high schools (public and private), youth serving agencies and other priority communities.

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11. Work with the Director of Education & Training to update and enhance RVA's specialized curricula for youth prevention education.
12. Ensure participants or clients evaluate the quality of prevention education/professional training programming as well as counseling services. Regularly evaluate feedback from participants.
13. Collaborate with staff and interns from the Education & Training, Advocacy, and Counseling departments in order to enhance the effectiveness of the agency's services.
14. Attend all required agency staff/supervision meetings and participate in staff development activities.
15. Maintain accurate records and statistics for intake, counseling, non-client crisis intervention, information/referral, and other services/activities.
16. Assist Directors with supervision of interns and volunteers as needed.
17. Perform other duties as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS

- Master's degree in social work, counseling, or psychology required (MSW, LCSW or LCPS)
- Bilingual (Written and verbal fluency) in Spanish/English strongly preferred; Bicultural strongly preferred
- Familiarity with the Austin community strongly preferred
- Excellent counseling and client assessment skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Ability to objectively advocate for the needs/rights of others
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Strong public speaking skills with a variety of audiences
- Ability to take initiative and work independently, as well as with a team
- Exceptional organizational and record-keeping skills
- Positive attitude and pro-active approach to problem solving
- Regular access to a vehicle, valid driver's license and proof of insurance for effective service delivery
- Previous experience working on women's and/or human rights issues, youth/children's issues, addressing sexual violence/gender-based violence, and/or working with diverse populations including LGBTQ communities strongly preferred
- Completion of a minimum of 40-hours of sexual assault training within two months of hire is required; previous completion of the training is strongly preferred
- Previous work experience with sexual assault prevention, providing training, and working with youth/adolescents is strongly preferred.

Persons of color and LGBTQ persons are encouraged to apply. RVA is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability in its procedures and policies.

To Apply:

Please send your cover letter and resume by e-mail to:

Megan Blomquist, Director of Education & Training

educator@rapevictimadvocates.org

Please note that resumes received without cover letters will not be considered.

No phone calls, please.