

Position Title: Volunteer Medical Advocate
Reports to: Advocacy Volunteer Supervisor
Location: Onsite at [Resilience partner hospitals](#)

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Resilience is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the healing and empowerment of sexual assault survivors through nonjudgmental crisis intervention counseling, individual and group trauma therapy, and medical and legal advocacy in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Resilience provides public education and institutional advocacy to improve the treatment of sexual assault survivors and to effect positive change in policies and public attitudes toward sexual assault. Established in 1974, Resilience serves over 2,000 survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones annually. Resilience has a main office in downtown Chicago, community-based office in Chicago's West Side, and several co-locations within partner organizations across the city.

GENERAL ROLE DESCRIPTION

Volunteer Medical Advocates provide crisis intervention counseling, nonjudgmental support, and medical and legal advocacy to survivors of sexual violence and their significant others (family, friends, partners, etc.). Advocates also provide referrals and information, to survivors and their non-offending loved ones.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- All volunteers must be at least 18 years old upon application submission.
- Advocates are required to complete Resilience's Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Volunteer certification training, including class participation, group role plays, and quizzes.
- Complete a federal criminal background check (fingerprinting) at an Accurate Biometrics facility at no cost to the volunteer. Please note that the outcome of this background check may implicate your ability to volunteer with our center. If you have questions about this, please connect with us.
- Complete a background check with IL Department of Children and Family Services. Please note that the outcome of this background check may implicate your ability to volunteer with our center. If you have questions about this, please connect with us.
- With the survivor's permission, Advocates are expected to remain with the survivor throughout the medical examination, evidence collection, and police interviews.
- Attend quarterly supervision by meeting with the Advocacy Volunteer Supervisor or attending Volunteer Support Group. Support groups are offered monthly and supervision with the Advocacy Volunteer Supervisor can be scheduled at any time.
- Access to email, internet and a reliable phone.
- Advocates will sign an agreement stating their commitment to be on-call for at least 288 hours over a one-year period, taking roughly four shifts a month. On-call shifts run from 1am-7am, 7am-1pm, 1pm-7pm, or 7pm-1am every day of the week. Volunteer Advocates will schedule their own shifts according to their availability. If flexibility is needed around completing your hours, we are happy to accommodate, just communicate with the Advocacy Volunteer Supervisor.

QUALIFICATIONS

Advocates must demonstrate a nonjudgmental, supportive attitude toward survivors of sexual violence. Strong interpersonal/communication skills and a focus on empathy are essential. It is expected that Advocates also be committed to the philosophy of our organization: anti-violence, anti-oppression, and the empowerment of all survivors of sexual violence.

ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Exceptional executive functioning skills and emotional intelligence
- Adaptability, conscientiousness, and reliability
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to give and receive honest, constructive feedback
- Ability to take initiative and work independently, as well as in a team environment that includes cross-department coordination
- Passion for Resilience's mission required; understanding of and/or experience working with sexual assault, women's issues, and human rights issues preferred
- Completion of volunteer training and all accompanying certifications before picking up shifts and being certified as a volunteer.

HYBRID WORK ENVIRONMENT

Training and supervision will be offered virtually in this role, but advocacy services will be provided in person at any of our partner hospitals throughout Chicago.

BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS

Because of the nature of our funding, all staff, interns, and volunteers are required to clear a criminal background check, free of convictions related to 1) any sex offense, and 2) any offense in which the victim is, by statute, a youth, including but not limited to, child abuse and child endangerment.

Additional background checks vary by position and are required for work with Chicago Public Schools, Cook County Health and Hospitals System, and for work with survivors who are incarcerated. Those who do not meet these requirements are not eligible for employment.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PHYSICAL

- In your volunteer application, you will be asked to provide proof of your COVID-19 vaccination. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Advocacy Volunteer Supervisor at volunteer@ourresilience.org. Its encouraged but not required.
- Possible exposure to vicarious trauma
- Potential for exposure to environmental and/or psychological hazards on or offsite at select partner locations
- Physical requirements may include (extended or periodic) walking, bending, reaching, sitting, and lifting

Persons of color and LGBTQ+ persons are encouraged to apply. Resilience 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.

For more information or to apply, please visit: ourresilience.org/get-involved/volunteer/. Questions can be emailed to volunteer@ourresilience.org.