



## **Client Support Workers – Pregnancy Pathways Program**

### **Summary Profile**

Pregnancy Pathways is a collaboration of some 25 organizations that came together to address the housing and support needs of pregnant homeless women in Edmonton. Boyle McCauley Health Centre (BMHC) operates the Pregnancy Pathways initiative that includes a dedicated residence for 12 women with on-site support services. In addition to experiencing homelessness, program participants face challenges with trauma, addictions and mental health issues, and require assistance to access prenatal care and be empowered to make decisions about the care of their infants. The residence will open its doors in December 2017. BMHC, an inner city community health clinic, is currently recruiting staff for the program.

Client Support Workers will provide 24-7 on-site support to Pregnancy Pathways' Clients, and will report to a Wellness Coordinator/Team Leader. We are recruiting Client Support Workers, at least one of whom will have a peer support role.

Client Support Workers:

- Work with the Wellness Coordinator and program participants to develop and work toward monthly goals.
- Teach and guide program participants to access income support, identification, banking services as well as mental health, addictions and physical health services.
- Assist program participants to gain confidence with a range of life skills including budgeting, shopping and meal preparation.
- Assist program participants to address family and personal stressors.
- Guide mothers to further develop skills to take care of their babies and children.
- Help program participants to build effective problem-solving and inter-personal skills.
- Help create a sense of community in the Pregnancy Pathways residence including assisting with the organization of recreation and cultural events.

## **Qualifications, Experience and Skills**

- An in-depth understanding of the background and challenges faced by pregnant women experiencing homelessness, including the impact of trauma on women and children, and of street culture.
- Experience working in a residential environment.
- Enhanced problem-solving skills for women dealing with trauma.
- A track record of working effectively with Indigenous people.
- Experience with the practical application of Harm Reduction and strength-based strategies.
- Experience teaching/guiding mothers on appropriate techniques in raising babies and children.
- A background in organizing appropriate cultural and recreation events.
- A driver's license and car.
- Criminal Record, Vulnerable Person and Child Welfare Checks will be required; in the event of any convictions or concerns, we will review the information available to determine if it impacts eligibility for employment.

## **For the Peer Support Role**

At least one Client Support Worker will have a peer support role, drawing on his or her own personal lived experience with sustained recovery regarding mental illness, addictions, and/or homelessness/poverty, with a willingness and ability to share such experience with program participants. The belief that recovery is possible for all who experience mental health, traumatic and/or substance use challenges is fundamental to the practice of peer support. Within the peer support role, a Client Support Worker will work with Clients to provide emotional, social and practical supports, using his or her own personal life experiences with mental illness, addictions and/or homelessness/poverty as a reference. Candidates may choose to disclose the nature of their relevant lived experience in their application if they wish to have their lived experience considered as a qualification for a peer support role.

## **Compensation and Benefits**

Pregnancy Pathways will initially operate as a three-year pilot project with the intent of continuing operations for the long term. Client Support Workers will work an average of 40 hours per week on rotating shifts (days, evenings and overnight, including weekends).

Salary: \$18.45-\$23.55 per hour (\$35,978-\$45,918 per year) plus a comprehensive benefits package.

## **How to Apply**

**This posting will remain open until candidates are hired. Please apply as soon as possible by email to: Wendy Bouwman Oake, Program Director - [wendyb@pathwaystohousingdm.ca](mailto:wendyb@pathwaystohousingdm.ca)**