

**Part-time Peer Community Mental Health Worker
14-hours per week through December (4 positions)**

The Fund for Public Health in New York City, (FPHNYC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is dedicated to the advancement of the health and well-being of all New Yorkers. To this end, in partnership with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), FPHNYC incubates innovative public health initiatives implemented by DOHMH to advance community health throughout the city. It facilitates partnerships, often new and unconventional, between government and the private sector to develop, test, and launch new initiatives. These collaborations speed the execution of demonstration projects, effect expansion of successful pilot programs, and support rapid implementation to meet the public health needs of individuals, families, and communities across New York City.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW Friendship Benches NYC Department of Health

Friendship Benches NYC serve as non-traditional public meeting spaces installed with aims to reduce mental health treatment gaps by using peer health workers to deliver problem solving therapy, a cognitive behavioral therapy based technique, provided on a primary care level to address depression and anxiety, and motivational interviewing to support strength based approach to identify opportunities for self-care. These non-traditional counseling spaces can also facilitate referrals to social services and ongoing care, cultivate social cohesion through creative programming, and serve as pop-up stations for health promotion.

Friendship Benches have been proven to enhance community engagement, increase access to care, reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety and increase social cohesion. The provision of services, workshops, lay worker training, and employment established through shared leadership and cross-sector partnerships can improve outcomes of complex mental health interventions and reinforce community power, individual efficacy and localized networks to support self-care.

The Thrive NYC Friendship Bench Project aims to:

- Implement task-shifting model to increase access to mental health care
- Address depression and anxiety and improve self-care
- Connect with hard to reach population and build social cohesion
- Increase access to social services through referral and tracking support

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Peer Community Health Worker will serve as a counselor and referral specialist for residents and community members through the activation of the Friendship Benches and referrals from partnering programs. Peer Community Health Workers will be trained to provide one-on-one mental health coaching sessions to help resident participant's identify alternative approaches to solving problems, accessing social services and identifying signs and symptoms of common mental illnesses like depression, anxiety and substance use. Sessions will be held either at the friendship benches or public community events. With shared life experience, Community Mental Health Workers will serve as

counselors, educate participants about self-help techniques and teach effective coping strategies and symptom management skills and assist in the referral of community support systems and networks.

- Flexible work schedule, regular evenings and weekends required
- Ability to work independently, be flexible, and handle changing workload with multiple projects and changing priorities
- Working Conditions: 90% Community, 10% Office and Supervision
- A strong commitment to engage residents on a personal level and be able to get agreement on future health commitment/goals

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide mental health coaching support to walk-up visitors and individuals referred to the friendship benches
- Maintain referral and visitor session notes
- Connect participants to community clinical and social service
- Model positive mental health management behavior
- Complete tasks including documentation, coaching and health education and data entry in accordance with organizational guidelines
- Prepare case-related reports including but not limited to: outcomes, successes and challenges.
- Engage in case conferencing with Peer Community Mental Health Worker Supervisor
- Communicate health complications and risks to Community Health Worker Supervisor when necessary
- Participate in group advocacy and community mobilization activities of the Community Action Team
- Serve as a positive example and representative of the organization internally and externally

QUALIFICATIONS

- High school diploma or GED
- Bilingual preferred (English/Spanish or English/French) BUT NOT REQUIRED
- NYCHA residents strongly encouraged to apply
- Strong relationship builder with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Experience providing coaching, mentoring, adult learning, counseling, outreach, workshop facilitation, and/or group/community presentations preferred
- Experience working with marginalized populations preferred
- Healthcare related experience is a plus
- Knowledge and familiarity with NYCHA systems is a plus
- A commitment to collective action and community organizing
- Peers with lived experience strongly encouraged to apply

SALARY

The salary for this position is \$24/hour 14hours per week through December.

TO APPLY

To apply, send Resume, with Cover Letter, including how your experience relates to this position, to publichealthjobs@fphnyc.org indicating “**PT Peer Community Mental Health Worker_your name**” in subject line.

The Fund for Public Health in New York City is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages a diverse pool of candidates to apply.