



**JOB POSTING: Harm Reduction Outreach Coordinator**  
(Posted: February 28, 2019; Application Deadline: March 15, 2019)

**Job Title:** Harm Reduction Outreach Coordinator

**Position Type:** Full-time Contract Position (35 hours/week – April 1, 2019 till March 31, 2020)

**Reporting To:** Harm Reduction Program Manager

**Compensation:** Salary & Benefits

**Office Location:** Richmond Hill, ON

**Overview**

The AIDS Committee of York Region (ACYR) is a community-based organization that provides support, education and access to dignified care for people living with, affected by, and at risk of HIV/AIDS. We are currently recruiting a full-time Harm Reduction Outreach Coordinator for a community-based harm reduction project in York Region. The goal of this project is to reduce negative health impacts experienced by people who use drugs and substances as a result of sharing drug use equipment. Through this project, ACYR will establish peer-led initiatives to increase access to harm reduction services, HIV/Hep C and other STBBI testing, and other health services for drug and substance using community members in York Region. Using harm reduction approaches, this project will help build the capacity of individuals and services providers in the region to prevent infections associated with sharing of drug use equipment. We aim to reduce stigma and discrimination toward mental health, substance use, and people who use drugs and substances in York Region.

**Job Description**

The Harm Reduction Outreach Coordinator engaged in this project will gain a) knowledge about harm reduction based prevention methods related to sexually transmitted and blood borne infections such as HIV and Hepatitis C and b) skills to engage and educate drug using community members in York Region about harm reduction practices and community supports that can help promote their health and wellness.

The primary duty of the Harm Reduction Outreach Coordinator is to educate and distribute harm reduction supplies and other relevant resources to drugs and substance using community members across York Region. The Outreach Coordinator must be comfortable working with marginalized and street-involved individuals who are actively using drugs, experiencing mental health challenges, engaged in sex work, are homeless, and/or live in tents/camps.

Other core job duties include:

- Work closely with the Harm Reduction Program Manager & Harm Reduction Outreach Workers to plan and conduct community outreach activities (including street outreach) to engage drug and substance using community members in ACYR's onsite as well as other community-based harm reduction services and supports.
- Provide education and facilitate trainings on safer drug use, overdose prevention (including naloxone), and other harm reduction practices to people who use drugs

- Distribute harm reduction and risk reduction supplies (such as safer injection and inhalation supplies, naloxone kits, and condoms and lubes) to people who use drugs.
- Provide education and distribute supplies to encourage safe disposal of drug use equipment.
- Assist with stocking, organization and inventory of harm reduction supplies.
- Assist with process to safely dispose used needles, pipes and other works according to established protocols.
- Track and record supplies distributed and collected.
- Provide resources and referral information and connect service users to programs and services in York Region related to mental health, substance use, shelters/housing, health care, and violence prevention.
- Where appropriate, deliver brief counselling (crisis intervention/'just listening' support)
- Promote community-based HIV, Hep C and STBBI testing drives at partner agency drop-ins.
- Engage Peer Advisory Committee (PAC) members in program delivery and activities with the guidance of Harm Reduction Program Manager.
- Build and maintain trusting relationships with community members who access services.
- Provide regular and essential report back to Harm Reduction Program Manager to support accurate project record keeping.
- Identify service access gaps and work with Harm Reduction Program Manager to help expand low-barrier access to programs and services.
- In collaboration with Harm Reduction Program Manager, develop and deliver harm reduction capacity building trainings and presentations for diverse health, wellness and social service providers in York Region.
- Support project evaluation and knowledge dissemination activities as required.
- Maintain confidentiality and other protocols according to ACYR policies.
- Attend harm reduction trainings, professional development activities, staff/team meetings and network meetings.
- Pick up and drop off accompanying peer outreach workers to/from an outreach shift location or ACYR's office to nearest accessible public transit.
- Perform other duties as required.

### **Qualifications**

- Experience and comfort working with marginalized people who are actively using drugs and substances, engaged in sex work, are homeless or street involved, and/or live in tents/camps, youth, newcomers, 2SLGBTQ+ population, individuals with a history of incarceration and individuals experiencing mental health challenges.
- Lived experience with drugs and substance use is an asset.
- Ability to maintain a non-judgmental and non-stigmatizing approach.
- Ability to work from a trauma-informed, anti-discrimination/ anti-oppressive lens.
- Not use homophobic, trans-phobic, sexist or racist language, or language demeaning to drug users and/or sex workers
- Ability to function calmly and effectively in difficult and/or crisis situations.
- Strong communication and conflict resolution skills.
- Self-awareness and established ability to maintain confidentiality and healthy boundaries.
- Respect for agency policies and protocols.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Understanding of and commitment to harm reduction principles.

- Understanding of HIV/AIDS, Hep C, drugs and substance use, and social determinants of health.
- Knowledgeable of drugs and substances being used and the methods of their use.
- Knowledge of local resources an asset.
- Ability to work outside regular working hours (evening and weekends)
- A familiarity with York Region, and a comfort traveling independently through York Region.
- **Valid Ontario driver's license, insurance and reliable vehicle is a must**
- A current, satisfactory/ acceptable Vulnerable Sector Screening.

Please submit cover letter and resume highlighting qualifications and experience by:

- Email to [aazmila@acyr.org](mailto:aazmila@acyr.org) **with subject line Harm Reduction Outreach Coordinator Position**  
OR
- In writing to Hiring Committee, AIDS Committee of York Region, 10909 Yonge Street, Unit #203, Richmond Hill ON, L4C 3E3. Your application can be hand written, but please ensure that it is neat and easy to read.

*The AIDS Committee of York Region promotes the principles of anti-oppression and adheres to the tenets of the Ontario Human Rights Code. **We encourage applicants with lived experience of substance use, HIV/AIDS, and/or Hep C.** We also encourage people of all races, ethnic origins, religions, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expression.*

*We thank all applicants. However, only those who are to be interviewed will be contacted.*