

JOB TITLE: Harm Reduction Outreach Worker / Health Educator



Bienestar Human Services, Inc. is a unique non-profit social service organization that successfully improves the health and well-being of the underserved Latino community in Southern California. BIENESTAR uses a uniquely relevant, peer-based approach, combined with 100% cultural competence and community outreach, to improve the outcome of public health. BIENESTAR networks with other social service organizations to provide a complete package of support to its clients.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Under the direction and direct supervision of the Harm Reduction Manager, the Outreach Worker/ Health Educator will focus on carrying out program activities to meet contractual agreements set by Bienestar on behalf and for participants. Aid in the goals of reducing spread of infectious diseases; COVID-19, HIV, Viral Hepatitis, Monkey Pox and helping prevent the rate of preventable drug overdose. Provide services at multiple locations, storefront, fixed mobile sites and street-based outreach. Educate people who use drugs (PWUD), people who experience homelessness (PEH), people who engage in sex work, adults, youth and/or specialized demographic groups by providing harm reduction risk reduction information strategies to build skills in individual and group sessions serviced by Bienestar.

SUMMARY OF DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conduct street-based outreach to underserved communities of people who use drugs, experience homelessness, people who engage in sex work and are affected by social determinants of health.
- Following principles of Harm Reduction provide one-on-one or group educational risk reduction, assessment, planning and support for safer use practices around, drug use management, preventing the spread of COVID-19, HIV, viral Hepatitis, STI's, Monkey Pox and overdose prevention and response.
- Assist in the development and modification of appropriate contractual goals and objectives.
- Development of appropriate educational materials for the program, including brochures with comprehensive lists of services, transmission, and prevention information related to safer drug use, and safer sex use.
- Prepare and distribute safer injection use kits, safer sex kits, other safer use kits, and collect used syringes in accordance with public health regulations to decrease the harm associated with drug use i.e., decrease the spread of infectious disease, decrease injection related wounds, prevention and response of overdose.
- Assist in trainings around overdose prevention and response. Prepare overdose prevention and response kits. Distribute Naloxone, and Fentanyl Test strips. Collect data around peer-to-peer distribution, secondary distribution and incidences of overdose and overdose reversals.
- Provide referrals, linkage to care and ongoing participant follow-ups to community organizations, medical care, MAT, drug use counseling, support groups and other services aiding in improving quality of life. Create a safe space where participants are able to give feedback on

their experiences when accessing care. Track this feedback and advocate on behalf of participants to ensure referral services are in compliance with principles of Harm Reduction.

- In a timely manner collect individual data at each participant encounter consistent with all program activates. Prepare weekly/monthly/quarterly program reports and keeps accurate up-to-date, records and documentation to meet contractual obligations.
- Build alliances by conducting outreach with unhoused communities, and other appropriate service providers to educate on services provided by the Syringe Service Program and build access to care.
- Prepare, set up and dismantle program sites: tents, tables, and other program materials. Guarantee the completeness of storefront, mobile sites, and outreach venues.
- Stock storefront, storage spaces, mobile unit.
- Maintain inventory of program supplies and educational materials.
- Loading and unloading of packages and containers. Build-up, break-down, and sort program supplies, as applicable. Safe and proper acceptance, handling and transfer of supplies, as applicable.
- Train other program personnel, or volunteers, in Principles of Harm Reduction and techniques for approaching the target groups and participants.
- Deliver a variety of programs addressing the educational and service needs of diverse target groups.
- Conduct community backpack outreach during the week/weekends.
- Any other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A good candidate will have lived experience, be knowledgeable in principles of harm reduction, familiar with person first language, have strong customer service skills, and have a desire for empowering those who are living on the streets.
- Bachelor degree or comparable professed knowledge in psychology, sociology, social work, health sciences or related field preferred.
- Lived experience and interpersonal skills working with culturally and socially diverse community groups including people who use drugs, people who inject drugs, people impacted and affected by COVID-19, HIV, HCV, Monkey Pox and other underserved communities.
- Able to work independently within an agency team and have excellent organizational skills.
- Experience with design and presentation of educational materials essential, as well as comfort with public speaking essential.
- Bilingual English/Spanish with good verbal and written communication skills preferred.
- Self-motivated, problem solver and able to organize job assignments with strong leadership skills.
- Ability and willingness to work in a team-oriented work environment, with professionals and paraprofessionals from different disciplines, as well as volunteers and clients.
- Sensitive to confidential information.
- Able to meet agency job requirements including work hours, using own vehicle for transportation, lifting up to 50lbs and other requirements.

HOURS: Full Time Position. Some weekends and evenings required.

SALARY: \$18-20, Commensurate with education and experience.

SEND COVER LETTER & RESUME: Hrjobs@bienestar.org

***Position Will Remain Open Until Filled. Bienestar Is An Equal Opportunity Employer.
Members of the LGBTQ+ community are encouraged to apply.***