



MHEP

MENTAL HEALTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

FT Policy and Advocacy Specialist
Albany, New York

Excellent Benefits
Salary Commensurate with Experience

The Mental Health Empowerment Project, Inc. (MHEP) is a not-for-profit agency organized in 1988 to develop and strengthen self-help and mutual support activities throughout the United States. MHEP is generally focused on offering skill building activities and education related to self-help, peer support and recovery; organizing people to create desired change in their own lives and in their communities; creating and delivering workshops and skill building seminars that help individuals find and connect with their personal power and the power of peer support.

MHEP is currently seeking a FT Policy and Advocacy Specialist to develop and oversee a statewide advocacy agenda and education/organizing activities to influence positive long-term changes to systems that support and respond to the needs of the community, including the environments that they operate in. This position is located in our Albany office and requires significant statewide travel.

Responsibilities

- Provide education and training related to individual, systems, and legislative advocacy that will promote improved opportunities and outcomes for people with mental health diagnoses and help to ensure that their rights and interests are upheld.
- Establish community connections that determine and influence areas of concern in respect to mental health and community-based systems while utilizing creative strategies to ensure effective communication, collaboration, and engagement with various stakeholders, including social media.
- Engage with people who have used (or are currently using) mental health services to identify solutions to improve outcomes for people who use mental health services.
- Seek to increase direct representation of people who use mental health services within decision-making bodies while engaging underrepresented communities and getting individuals involved in decision-making processes.
- Ensure that experiences of individuals with mental health diagnoses inform the focus of MHEP's work.

- Work with community leadership to expose policy and social changes within government, corporations, and institutions and help communities plan and take targeted action towards influencing policy changes that affect them.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate for this position will have demonstrated experience as a seasoned trainer and public speaker, with knowledge related to community organizing best practices. This individual will also have experience advocating for change in public policy, community organizing and outreach to diverse communities. Additional requirements of this position include computer literacy, experience using social media as a means of organizing/connecting to a community, excellent technical writing and oral communication skills, a clean, valid NYS drivers' license, and a personal vehicle. Since MHEP highly values the benefits of peer support and self-help, our ideal candidate will also be a person who has been given a psychiatric label and has personal experience with the mental health system.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commitment

MHEP is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. The agency is dedicated to the goal of building a culturally diverse and pluralistic staff committed to working in a multicultural environment and strongly encourages applications from women, minorities, individuals with disabilities and protected veterans.

To Apply

To express interest in this position, please e-mail, fax or send resume, cover letter and salary requirements to:

Amy Colesante, CEO
Mental Health Empowerment Project, Inc.
3 Atrium Drive, Suite 205
Albany, NY 12205

E-mail: acolesante@mhepinc.org
Fax: 518/434-3823

Resumes must be received by fax, e-mail or mail by October 30, 2022.