

Title: Housing Recreational and Life Skills Assistant (RLA) Canada Summer Student Jobs Position

Status: **CONTINGENT ON FUNDING from the Federal CSJ Program, funding**

Confirmation/status anticipated in May 2017.

Location: Downtown Community Centre and Olympic Vista

Program: Community Health

Salary: \$14.36 per hour

Employee group: Exempt

Closing Date: March 31, 2017

Anticipated start date: As soon as position funding has been confirmed in May

Other information: Thirty (30) hours per week, 14 weeks, May through August, 2017, Shifts include: mornings, afternoon and early evenings.

HIRING PROCESS: A short-list of eligible candidates will be based on the cover letter expressing your interest in the position as it relates to your field of study, how this position would help further your learning and what you believe you can bring to the position. Interviews will be conducted in April. If our funding application is successful the selected candidate will be contacted with a start date and orientation schedule.

JOB SUMMARY

Reporting to the DCC Coordinator, the Recreational and Life Skills Assistant helps develop and facilitate services for Housing Tenants and Downtown Community Centre clients that build skill and social development, confidence, and functional development that lessens the tendency towards isolation. The summer student also helps to role model effective communication skills and acts as another link to the community. The student will work directly with homeless and street-involved clients to provide assistance, particularly to those facing employment barriers, persons with disabilities, seniors and youth. The student will assist in the provision of recreational and social opportunities that support tenants and clients to develop, maintain or restore, social, psychosocial, cognitive and communication skills. Activities delivered individually or in groups may include: community outings, leisure activities, goal development, facilitation of ongoing programs and special events. Equally important are the indirect activities that support administrative and program support. These will include working with the tenants and clients to maintain an environment that is welcoming and non-judgmental, producing various written communications and on-line web-based information as well as office support, tracking information about services delivered and recording of outcomes. This position would not be available without the financial assistance of the CSJ program and would not otherwise be created.

ELIGIBILITY and EDUCATION

- Registered as a full-time student during the preceding academic year
- Must be returning to school in the fall as a registered full-time student
- Is between the ages of 19 and 30 years of age
- Is a student in a secondary, post-secondary, vocational or technical program
- Is legally entitled to work in Canada
- Is legally entitled to work according to the relevant BC provincial regulations
- Is working towards a degree or certificate in a social work, social service, nursing or therapeutic recreational field

The CSJ Student will gain knowledge and skills including:

- Develop working relationships with marginalized populations
- Increase understanding and awareness of alcohol and drug use as it relates to the Street
- Gain insight into the issues of homelessness, the cycle of poverty & barriers to greater community inclusion
- Learn proper protocols and procedures working within a multi-disciplinary team to support clients
- Gain an in-depth understanding of issues pertaining to mental illness and addiction issues
- Acquire active and reflective listening skills to develop other ways of supporting and assisting clients
- Learn to follow standard formats of assessment, exploration, discussion, and problem-solving
- Realize different conflict resolution techniques to handle agitated and/or hostile clients; learn to recognize and assess persons who may be potentially volatile and techniques to deal with, defuse and de-escalate situations and remain objective
- Increase knowledge of other community service agencies within Victoria

This position is contingent on funding from the federal Canada Summer Jobs Program. Funding success is not guaranteed and notification of funding status will not be known until May 2017.

TO APPLY: if you are interested in applying to be considered for this position, please **forward a cover letter and resume by March 31, 2017 in confidence to: Donna McKenna, DCC Coordinator, 755 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1N9 or email dmckenna@coolaid.org.**