



Community Advocacy Coordinator

Position: Contract, 1-year – with possibility of renewal (educational leave replacement)
Hours: 35 hours a week
Location: CRC at 40 Oak Street
Supervisor: Community Food Centre Manager

The CRC | Regent Park Community Food Centre is an innovative, impactful, collaborative mid-sized, multiservice agency that has proudly served the Regent Park and surrounding neighbourhood for over 50 years. In 2012, the CRC opened a beautiful new building and a new chapter in its history. Our building has a 5000-square foot community hub of program space and we host the only not-for-profit social housing in Regent Park. We are home to the Regent Park Community Food Centre (RPCFC) and its suite of high-impact programs, in partnership with Community Food Centres Canada, where people come together to cook, grow, share, and advocate for good food. The CRC provides innovative solutions which help residents of Regent Park and the surrounding neighbourhoods enrich community well-being, improve economic conditions, realize their potential and direct their lives. We prioritize our efforts toward individuals and families facing barriers (e.g., caused by poverty, inequity, discrimination).

The Opportunity

The CRC | RPCFC is looking for a talented, motivated **Community Advocacy Coordinator** to lead our team of peer Advocates and the Community Advocacy Program. The Coordinator supports community members with navigating social and public services to access resources and overcome barriers and builds capacity for both the agency and the community to make broader social change. The Coordinator leads Community Advocacy Training, a 15-week training program where community members with experiences of poverty and marginalization are trained to provide information and referral services to peers in the community and take action on local social justice-related issues, including tenants' rights and social assistance within a supportive anti-racist/anti-oppressive framework. Selected graduates of the program go on to hold weekly office hours, under the supervision of the Community Advocacy Coordinator, to assist community members on a drop-in basis. Some longer-term case coordination is taken on as needed, and when capacity allows.

The Community Advocacy Coordinator is responsible for ongoing education and engagement around social justice issues within CRC | RPCFC aligned with our strategic direction, including with staff, volunteers and community members. This can mean providing casual learning opportunities through our “social justice issue of the month”, to convening groups of local residents to take action on an issue that matters to them, to training volunteers on systems issues. The role is highly collaborative, working closely with CRC | RPCFC staff and other local organizations in and around Regent Park.

Major Responsibilities:

- 1. Develop and coordinate the Peer Advocacy program for the RP Community Food Centre**
 - Coordinate recruitment, scheduling, payroll, meeting facilitation and ongoing educational/training opportunities for peer advocates

- Provide support and act as a resource to the Advocates - supervise, train, mentor and discipline a team of peers with lived experience and role model healthy boundaries in providing services to the community; provide advocacy, assessment, supportive counselling, and crisis intervention for participants when required

2. Coordinate and deliver Community Action Training program

- Deliver an annual training program that reflects our community's needs and draws on local resources
- Network with local groups and agencies engaged in advocacy to collaborate on training (e.g. Basic income); promote training, recruit participants, and evaluate program impact

3. Work with specific community interest groups to advocate for priorities they identify

- Coordinate resident interest groups who wish to take action in their community (parents, youth, indigenous people, tenants, other groups as identified)
- Work with group members to identify their priorities for community change, and work collaboratively with them to access training, skill-building and other resources

4. Support social justice work and education within existing CRC programs and amongst volunteers

- Identify Social Justice issues of the month to educate and engage CRC participants in social change; work closely with program staff to identify persistent challenges faced by community members and provide relevant resources
- Use creative strategies to integrate social justice issues into CRC programming and events
- Work with Volunteer program to create training opportunities for volunteers to become well-informed advocates to move systems change; participate in city-wide advocacy networks and meetings as needed and report back to CRC team

Qualifications and Experience:

- Degree in Social Work, another relevant program, or equivalent professional and educational experience providing case management or social work support
- Minimum 3 years' experience with program coordination in a social service setting
- Demonstrated experience in effective community organizing
- Experience with peer training programs
- Experience in working with youth and/or families an asset
- Experience supervising staff or volunteer teams a strong asset.

Knowledge and Skills:

- Deep knowledge of social and public services including Ontario Works, ODSP, subsidized and supportive housing, tenant rights, health care, resources for people who use drugs, etc. and how these systems impact the lives of people living in poverty and dealing with marginalization
- Excellent skills in designing and delivering training around topics such as conflict resolution, advocacy, boundaries, communication, critical analysis and community activism
- Demonstrated experience and skills in conflict resolution; CPI training an asset

- Knowledgeable about and committed to working from an anti-racist/anti-oppression framework with people from diverse backgrounds within healthy boundaries; ability to build relationships with diverse stakeholders, including community members, partner organizations, volunteers
- A self-starting, creative leader with a solutions-focused approach able to work strongly as an individual and as part of a collaborative team
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, both written and oral
- Able to work evenings and occasional weekends
- Knowledge of or experience living or working in Regent Park an asset; second language relevant to the Regent Park community an asset
- A vulnerable sector police check will be required if hired

This position will be a member of CRC Local #2864.

Please submit your resume and cover letter in one Word or pdf document by **Friday April 5, 2019 at 5:00pm** to hiringlecommittee@tcrc.ca.

CRC encourages applications from people representing the diverse community we serve. In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), CRC will provide accommodations to job applicants with disabilities throughout the recruitment process. If you require any accommodations, please notify us and we will work with you to meet your needs.

We thank all candidates for their interest, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.