

HOUSING ADVOCATE - June 2021

Position Title: Housing Advocate
Classification: Nonexempt, Hourly, Full-Time
Reports to: Shelter Director
Primary Worksite: Confidential, Orange County

FEARLESS! (formerly known as Safe Homes of Orange County) is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3), which has grown from a grassroots, small group of committed individuals in 1986 to an organization, leader, and resource in the field of intimate partner violence and human trafficking advocacy and services provision. Our many programs include a Family Justice Center, emergency shelter, legal program, anti-trafficking program, individual and group support, advocacy, therapeutic counseling, Risk Reduction Response Programs, systems-based advocacy and collaboration, community education and outreach, throughout Orange and Sullivan Counties.

Role Summary:

The Housing Advocate is primarily responsible for providing empathic, nonjudgmental support and direct services to victims/survivors of intersecting forms of violence and abuse through the agency's residential programs and 24-hour hotline. They will assist clients in evaluating their needs around housing and financial stability, and support appropriate community linkages in order to enhance safety and independence. They will specifically serve individuals around needs arising from, but not limited to, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, teen dating violence, sexual violence, and other types of crime victimization.

Duties and Responsibilities (shall include but not be limited to):

Essential Areas of Work

- Provide ongoing advocacy and case management services in the areas of, but not limited to: independent living, housing stabilization, financial management, community integration, employment linkage, benefits establishment, linkage to appropriate community resources, primary health and mental health care, and all other services needed to support clients in obtaining safe and affordable post-shelter housing.
- Meet with clients to establish and formulate housing related goals, determine a plan of action for accomplishing goals and review as needed to ensure ongoing focus on goal achievement.
- Engage in ongoing assessment of client goals and progress, and advocate for the needs of clients with community agencies, including DSS, Social Security, medical providers, courts, counseling agencies, landlords, etc. to ensure goals and outcomes are met or changed, as needed.
- Collaboratively work with clients to find and secure permanent housing options.
- Provide appropriate information and referrals, and facilitate client connections with necessary services providers/agencies, including programs within Fearless!, and maintain collaboration to maximize participant outcomes and program goals.
- As needed and available, provide culturally-informed, trauma-responsive crisis intervention, and nonjudgmental, supportive comprehensive services to clients, including, but not limited to: assessments; intakes; individual and/or group supportive counseling; advocacy and accompaniment; follow-up contact, as safe and appropriate, and outreach; and information and referrals.
- Provide clients with information regarding the NYS Office of Victims Services, assist with filing applications for OVS compensation, and serve as a liaison between clients and OVS.
- Maintain a safe and cohesive environment for the well-being of families in residence by actively engaging in basic housekeeping and maintenance, organization of donations, and other assigned tasks.
- Complete safety checks of the shelter residence, as scheduled.
- Ensure ongoing compliance with State and other regulations in regards to the condition of the residence and services provided.

Program-Related

- Attend and actively participate in regular supervision with Shelter Director.
- Attend and actively participate in program-specific and agency-wide staff/team meetings.
- Attend and actively participate in meetings with Housing First Program partners.
- Attend and actively participate in assigned webinars, in-service trainings, and external trainings.
- Attend and actively participate in awareness month activities and agency events for clients.
- Actively participate in maintaining a clean, welcoming environment throughout the agency.

Administrative

- Maintain the confidentiality of clients, staff, volunteers, and agency information. Exceptions include information pertaining to child abuse, danger to self or others, or in response to an authorized release of information.
- Adhere to agency policies and protocols related to the security of electronic client service records. Maintain the highest levels of accuracy in recordkeeping and reporting, ensuring that all client records and documentation of work activities are complete and up-to-date and submitted to supervisor, as directed.
- Ensure timely response and follow-up to email communication and voicemail messages.

Organizational Relationships

- Contribute toward fostering inclusive and supportive work environments throughout the agency.
- Work closely and collaboratively with Shelter Director and other supervisory staff, as appropriate, to understand and accomplish position responsibilities.
- Work closely and collaboratively with agency staff within the Family Justice Center, residential settings, and collocated offices.
- Work closely and collaboratively with community partner organizations while supporting the advocacy needs of clients.

Other

- Other duties as assigned by immediate and/or other supervisors.
- Staff members are encouraged to be flexible and responsive to changes in scope of duties.

Work Hours: 40 hours; Primarily Monday through Friday during business hours with evening availability. Flexibility is required given 24/7 staffing requirements. Staff are not permitted to leave until relieved by another staff member.

Requirements:

- 4-year degree in human services or related field, OR equivalent work experience in providing direct crisis counseling and/or advocacy services to victims/survivors of intersecting forms of violence and abuse.
- Direct experience working within residential settings, social services, and other community agencies is preferred.
- Commitment to working from an anti-oppression, harm-reduction, and trauma-responsive approach; and to social change through active participation in working towards ending gender-based violence, racism, classism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, ableism, and all forms of oppression.
- Ability to work independently as well as cooperatively with a team, with a willingness to appreciate different points of view and problem solve in a constructive manner.
- Investment in ongoing professional growth and development, learning, and skill-building.
- Excellent written and oral communication, organizational and time management skills.
- Ability to model and uphold appropriate boundaries in work with clients, colleagues, supervisors, and community.
- Demonstrates good judgment with the ability to make timely and sound decisions.
- Experience with data management and knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, and other database applications.
- Ability to lift 50 pounds, navigate stairs, and periods of sitting, standing, and movement required.
- Travel extensively between the agency's office sites and other locations throughout the service region.
- A valid, insurable driver's license and reliable transportation.

Desired: Bilingual/bicultural candidates strongly encouraged to apply.

Conditions of Employment: All jobs contingent upon successful completion of certain background checks which, unless prohibited by applicable law, may include criminal history, employment verification, education verification, DMV checks (for driving positions), State Central Registry, State Exclusion List, and fingerprinting.

NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE.

Applicants may email, mail, or fax resume **with** cover letter, describing your interest in this position.

Subject line must read: Housing Advocate

Email: jobs@fearlesshv.org

Fearless! Hudson Valley is an equal opportunity employer committed to a diverse, culturally inclusive work environment and prohibits discrimination due to race, color, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender and identity, disability, and national origin in employment and delivery of services. All are encouraged to apply.

This description reflects the principal functions of the job for the purpose of job evaluation. It should not be construed as a detailed description of all work requirements of the job nor shall be construed as giving exclusive responsibility for every function described.