

Peer Support Worker – Ref. No. 20029
Rapid Access Addiction Medicine
Permanent | Full-Time

The Alex: Changing Health. Changing Lives. The Alex Community Health Centre is a not-for-profit organization that is changing how we look at health care in Calgary. Our health, housing and food programs support our most vulnerable neighbours, tackling tough health and social issues head-on. Using a multi-disciplinary team approach, we focus care on assessment, intervention and promotion of all aspects of health. We embrace a model of health care that is accessible, responsive and participatory. In addition to the Community Health Centre, we run a Seniors Health Centre, a Youth Centre, two Mobile Community Health Buses, one Dental Health Bus, four Housing First Programs, and a Community Food Centre.

What we do and why we do it:

We recently opened a rapid access addiction medicine (RAAM) clinic that operates out of our Community Health Centre. This clinic model intends to fill a void in the addiction treatment system by providing immediate access to evidence-based addiction care. Services are low-barrier, accessible and patient centred. The strength of this model is the walk-in nature that meets patient needs the same day. This 'window of opportunity' is often missed in the addiction treatment system with long waits for appointments and difficult intake procedures. RAAM services include assessment, treatment planning, case management, psycho-social interventions, and pharmacotherapy.

The road to recovery is not a straight path and we acknowledge that everyone's journey is different. We know how hard it is to seek support you when you are in a dark place. The Peer Support Worker understands this because they have LIVED it. This role at our RAAM Clinic is critical to our clients, as they are the first welcoming person they see when they enter our space. In order to thrive in this role, the skill of empathy is not enough; you must have walked this path yourself and come out successfully on the other side now fueled by a need to give back like someone may or may not have done for you. You have the capacity, demeanor, and skillset to interact comfortably with humans who are active in their disease yet are considering a different way. You demonstrate mastery of the delicate balance between engaging with genuine care while maintaining professional boundaries. And, you are an advocate who believes deeply in harm reduction and trauma-informed care. If this resonates with you, please read on before reaching out to let us know how you would approach this role if given the opportunity.

What you will do:

- Provide individual peer support for people impacted by substance use using a recovery-oriented framework and harm reduction philosophy
- Promote peer support philosophy and empower people through their recovery journey
- Facilitate a variety of groups
- Build relationships with clients to understand community context and reduce barriers that limit access to health and social support
- Apply principles of trauma-informed care in all interactions
- Respond to crisis and emergency situations
- Participate in coalition building and networking
- Participate in data collection and program evaluation
- Driving clients to community destinations (paused during the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Adhere to Peer Support Canada's Code of Conduct and Standards of Practice
- Assist with data collection and entry as required

What you bring:

- Completion of the CMHA Calgary School of Peer Support course considered a strong asset
- Two years related experience (volunteering or paid), preferably in peer support working with individuals with substance use or mental health concerns
- Lived experience of a substance use concern
- Superior engagement skills
- Base level of computer skills
- Comfortable working independently and as part of a team
- Ability to contribute to a positive work environment and team culture
- High level of initiative and self-motivation
- Flexible and adaptable
- High level of self-awareness
- Determined and committed to excellence
- Class 5 non-GDL driver's license, a personal vehicle, a clean driver's abstract, and \$2 million liability insurance required
- Standard First Aid – Level C CPR & AED
- Non-violent Crisis Intervention and Mental Health First Aid an asset
- Knowledge of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) 94 Calls to Action considered an asset

Why You Want to Work with Us:

The Alex is an innovative and diverse organization which seeks to invest in its employees and see them succeed in their chosen careers. If you are seeking a deeply rewarding, yet challenging career helping Calgary's vulnerable populations, this might be the place for you!

- Group Benefits after 3 months
- 3-paid weeks of Vacation
- Paid Wellness and Personal Days
- RRSP Matching after 6 months
- Reimbursement of Professional Designation fees
- Investment in Professional Development
- Health and Lifestyle Enhancement benefit

How to apply:

If you are as passionate as we are about making a difference in people's lives, please submit your resume to jobs@thealex.ca and be sure to include the job title and reference number in the subject line. **This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.**

For further information about The Alex and its programs, we encourage you to visit our website at www.thealex.ca

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