

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: PHA Support Program Volunteers

OUR MISSION

The Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP) is an AIDS Service Organization committed to providing health promotion, care, and support for self-identifying South Asians living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV/AIDS. To learn more about ASAAP, please visit our website at www.asaap.ca

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

ASAAP's PHA Support Program includes ELAN (Empowerment, Love, and Networking for women) and C2C (Connecting to Care for all clients). Our aim is to provide ongoing, timely, and compassionate support to South Asians Living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. ELAN and C2C offer the following services to PHA clients:

- Case Management
- Health Navigation
- Emotional First Aid
- Referrals
- Accompaniment – hospitals, clinics, etc
- Home and Health settings visits
- Language Interpretation Support
- Monthly Support Groups
- Resources: Health Bulletins, Newsletters, etc.
- Educational Workshops
- Annual Events: Fall Retreat, Summer Activities, Holiday Party
- Special Projects: More Than Fiction Anthology
- Capacity-Building Training via Partner Agencies

Support Program Volunteers represent ASAAP to the clients during all activities in which volunteer support is required. Volunteers engage in an ongoing educational process to remain informed of relevant issues related to HIV/AIDS and to approach their work with an anti-oppression lens.

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

We are looking for volunteers who possess any of the following qualifications and skills:

- Excellent verbal communication skills
- Active Listening
- Professional, responsible and reliable
- Ability to practice patience and composure during challenging situations
- Ability to take constructive feedback
- Knowledge of HIV, ARV Treatment, and the determinants of health
- Understanding of, and comfort with, a diversity of sexual and gender identities and behaviours
- Ability to set and maintain healthy and professional boundaries
- Abide by the ASAAP Volunteer Code of Conduct, Oath of Confidentiality, and Conflict of Interest Policy as well as any program-specific protocols and procedures
- Knowledge of South Asian languages is an asset

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Be pro-active about staying informed of relevant information and issues affecting PHAs
- Fulfill all training requirements prior to working directly with clients
- Respond to relevant communications from C2C and ELAN support staff
- Report back to the Supervisor (PHA Support Coordinator)
- Provide feedback and input to ASAAP's PHA Support Program based on experience gained from providing direct support to our clients and engaging in other Support Program activities
- Be aware of the language accessibility and English literacy needs of clients and adjust communication accordingly
- Play a role in reducing HIV stigma and making a positive difference in the lives of the clients we serve

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Volunteer Core Skills Training
- PHA Support Program Training – ELAN/C2C Wise Practices Guidelines, ASAAP's HIV Disclosure Policy
- On-the-job training with support staff and other volunteers

*In addition to the training requirements, all interested candidates are requested to provide a Vulnerable Sector Screening Program – Police Reference Check prior to engaging directly as a volunteer with the PHA Support Program.

BENEFITS

Volunteers will receive ongoing support and supervision, letters of reference, opportunities for knowledge transfer, invitations to volunteer appreciation events, occasional complimentary event tickets, and awards. Volunteers will receive more than 20 hours of training on issues affecting people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. TTC Tokens are also provided to volunteers.

TIME COMMITMENT

To be determined on a case-by-case basis

"South Asian" is a broad term loosely referring to people who have migrated from, or have ancestry from, countries in the region of Southern Asia including but not limited to: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. We encourage and welcome applications representing the vast diversity in our collective communities through language, immigration status, HIV status, gender identity, sexual orientation, diaspora, class, ability and lived experiences. We are committed to accommodating people with varying needs.

Apply by sending a résumé and cover letter to:

Shazia Islam

PHA Support Coordinator, ASAAP

phasupport@asaap.ca

(416) 599-2727 ext. 223