

Substance Abuse Counselor

Job Description

This position reports directly to the Case Management Supervisor and works along with the Case Management team.

Housing Initiatives (HII) is dedicated to housing tenants who have experienced homelessness and are living with severe and persistent mental illness. HII is seeking to hire a licensed Substance Abuse Counselor (SAC or SAC-IT) to work with our tenants who are having problems with their substance use.

This position will be part of a Case Management team that uses Housing 1st principles to assist homeless mentally ill individuals in maintaining their housing. Housing Initiatives understands that many of our tenants experience co-occurring substance and/or alcohol use issues that can be problematic.

HII is a reality-based agency and aware that abstinence may not always be the goal for every tenant and therefore we are seeking a licensed SAC who adheres, personally and professionally, to the Harm Reduction philosophy.

Responsibilities;

The SAC shall work with our tenants to develop and implement treatment plans in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- I. Help tenants understand their use and the potential issues associated with it
Help tenants obtain and manage treatment services, including detox, out-patient, and in-patient
Help tenants learn about and attend community-based resources, including but not limited to 12 Step programs and sober activity groups
Help tenants explore and practice ways to reduce their current level of use
Help tenants identify personal goals about their use, including reducing or being safer
Help tenants with relapse prevention after they exit treatment

Additionally, HII recognizes tobacco and nicotine use as harmful. The SAC shall work with tenants who have problematic smoking issues that affect their housing and their health.

- II. Help tenants learn about their tobacco/nicotine use and its physical effects on their apartment
Help tenants learn about their tobacco/nicotine use and health issues associated with it
Help tenants obtain and manage smoking cessation and related resources/services
Help tenants identify community resources and alternatives to tobacco/nicotine use
Help tenants with relapse prevention after exiting cessation or related services

The SAC shall also treat all tenants with respect and dignity. The SAC shall work to insure no tenant feels alienated because of their alcohol, drug, tobacco/nicotine or other substance use.

Qualifications/Experience

- Experience providing services to clients who have severe and persistent mental health challenges
- Familiarity applying trauma-informed care and harm reduction models to case management roles
- Experience with AODA and mental health systems in Dane County
- CCS certification preferred or ability to become certified
- CSAC or SAC-IT preferred
- Must have a valid driver's license and their own vehicle