



Peer Self-Advocate Trainer (Bilingual-English/Spanish)

Peer Self-Advocacy Program

Location: Remote (must live in California), Sacramento, Oakland, Los Angeles, San Diego, Ontario, or Fresno

All Individuals who are Deaf and/or disabled are encouraged to apply.

SALARY RANGE (Depending on Experience): \$20.64 hr - \$30.22 hr

We base salary and position offers on experience and an internal equity analysis.

Employment Status: Non-Exempt; Regular; Full time (37.5 hrs.)

EXCELLENT BENEFITS including 8% 401k Match, a language differential up to \$250/mo. Health (HMO and PPO options), dental, vision, basic life insurance, short-term and long-term disability insurance and flexible spending accounts (medical, dependent care and commuter). Additionally, we offer ample vacation, sick/self-care leave and eighteen paid holidays (including the last week in December) and more..... We are a Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) - eligible employer.

Application Deadline: *Open until filled.*

WHO WE ARE

Disability Rights California (DRC) defends, advances, and strengthens the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities.

DRC works for a world where all disabled people have power and are treated with dignity and respect. In this world, people with disabilities are supported, valued, included in their communities, afforded the same opportunities as people without disabilities, and make their own decisions.

DRC values all forms of human diversity. We are committed to a culture of belonging where all people are welcome. In order to be effective advocates for all people with disabilities, we must address discrimination in all its forms, including the unique challenges faced by people who experience the intersection of multiple systems of discrimination.

Peer Self-Advocacy Unit (PSA)

PSA is seeking a Peer-Self-Advocate Trainer to join our team. The PSA program is part of the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act (PAIMI), since 1986 PSA started providing peer self-advocacy services to reach, teach and empower people with mental health disabilities in locked psychiatric facilities and state hospitals to educate about their patients' rights in order to learn and build skills to self-advocate for their needs.

All PSA staff are peers, meaning you must be person living with a mental health disability.

Some people refer to themselves as clients, consumers, survivors, or use other terms to identify self.

In PSA, we as staff share our experiences. We assist others to speak up, make decisions, and support each other to live the lives they choose. Since we are a Protection and Advocacy program, we have the authority by law to go into locked facilities to provide PSA services - few other organizations have the opportunity to enter locked facilities. PSA operates primarily remotely working to facilitate In-Person or virtual PSA groups throughout California.

In addition to PSA groups and trainings, we also collaborate with Peer Service Providers who work with SMI community coordinating Know-Your-Rights workshops to increase knowledge base to disability resources, by doing so we also increase the number of peers we can assist.

PSA is a diverse and collaborative team that values flexibility, adaptability, and innovation in a legal landscape that has been significantly changed by the pandemic.

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

The Peer Self-Advocate Trainer will provide peer self-advocacy educational trainings on-site at facilities. PSA groups focuses on rights-based information that can be used to self-advocate. This provides peers the needed support to share experiences and help one another find solutions to get what they want and need to meet their individual goals.

PSA Staff do not advocate directly for peers, but rather educate peers to advocate for themselves. They do not provide direct advocacy, legal advice, or individual representation.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Must self-Identify as a person living with a mental health disability.
- Currently receive or has received mental health services.
- Bilingual Ability: Spanish language. Written, Verbal and Translate.
- High School Diploma, two-year college or technical school OR equivalent combination of work experience and/or training.
- Two years' experience facilitating groups, meetings, or trainings (In -Person, on-site or Virtual)
- Experience working with or understand and value people with disabilities from ethnic- or language-distinct or multi-ethnic communities.
- Knowledge of administrative duties and operational activities (have excellent oral and written communication skills).
- Proficiency in MS Word, MS TEAMS, MS Excel, MS Powerpoint, and office equipment.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associate's (AA or AS) degree in a related field or equivalent from two-year college or technical school OR equivalent combination of experience and/or training.
- Knowledge of the mental health service system and an understanding of relevant Federal and State laws, especially in relationship to patients' rights law.
- Experience working with and understand and value communities of color (Native American, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian/Pacific Islander or African American or others).
- Experience working with and understand and value people with disabilities from traditionally underserved communities (i.e., people from the homeless, LGBTQ+, ethnic- and language-distinct and multi-ethnic communities, veterans, older adults and others).
- Knowledge of rights to services, benefits and legal resources throughout the state available to people with mental health disabilities.
- Experience working with service and advocacy providers, volunteer organizations or other community groups.
- Contacts with disability organizations and disability communities.
- Contacts with ethnic- and language-distinct and multi-ethnic communities and organizations.

Working at DRC is more than just a job - it is a rare opportunity to do what you are good at while making a difference! DRC offers competitive salaries and a generous benefit package. To view the detailed job description and complete the application process [here](#).