



Oahas

# Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy

London

Toronto

Ottawa

Sudbury

Thunder Bay

Sault Ste. Marie

Position: **Community Prevention Worker, Sault Ste-Marie**

Reports to: Northern Regional Supervisor

Term: Permanent Full-time

Start Date: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

## **Summary:**

Oahas operates based on the principles of Greater Involvement of People living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA), Meaningful Engagement of People living with HIV/AIDS (MEPA), Indigenous harm reduction, and respect for our cultural knowledges and teachings. These foundational principles guide all aspects of our relationships and work. Our mission is to support healthy, thriving Indigenous communities through ending the transmission of HIV and other STBBIs in our communities.

The role of a Community Prevention Worker is to provide culturally safe and trauma informed approaches related to prevention, education, outreach, testing and treatment supports and services for Indigenous peoples living in Ontario. This position is located in Sault Ste-Marie and requires a strong knowledge of Algoma District and current trends related to COVID-19, harm reduction and other essential services in the region.

## **Harm Reduction, Community and Education Services**

- Provide harm reduction outreach and education to community members, First Nations, agencies and institutions in Sault Ste-Marie and Algoma District.
- Keep current with ongoing drug trends as well as data and research relevant to Indigenous people and HIV/AIDS.
- Facilitate and participate in online community forums and workshops.
- Develop and work in partnership with local service providers to formalize referral processes and participate in community development and local networks to identify gaps in services, share information and coordinate services.
- Identify harm reduction training needs of local service providers and provide or facilitate relevant training opportunities.
- Engage peers and volunteers in creating harm reduction education and materials while continuing to provide ongoing support and mentorship.
- Work closely with Oahas staff, community members, partnered agencies and community leaders to advocate for access to respectful and culturally informed care and resources.
- Work closely with other Oahas staff and community partners to provide services for community members affected by and/or at risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS, HCV and STBBIs via sexual activity and/or substance use.

## **Testing, Intervention and Treatment Services**

- Provide testing services and referrals for community members affected by and/or at risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS, HCV and STBBIs via sexual activity and/or substance use.
- Develop and maintain strategic partnerships to ensure a continuum of care for Oahas members.
- Build rapport with community members to support their self-determination in areas of harm reduction; health care; housing; income, social and legal supports; and provide necessary referrals with trusted partnerships in the area.
- Provide supportive traditional counselling, pre and post-test counselling and crisis intervention.
- Provide support to IPHA community through support groups and various program activities.
- Assist with medical adherence and improvement of quality of life of IPHAs.

## **Administration**

- Complete OCASE and OCHART database tracking on a weekly basis.
- Ongoing program reporting, data collection, file maintenance and records management.
- Ongoing compliance with Oahas policies and procedures as required.
- May be required to assist with projects and other agency initiatives.

## **Additional Expectations**

- Flexibility with schedule and ability to work evenings and weekends on occasion.
- May be required to assist with projects and other agency initiatives
- Share in the responsibility and care for Oahas traditional medicines and bundle items as per protocol.

## **Qualifications:**

- Competency and a good understanding of Indigenous culture and ways, teachings and history.
- Lived Experience; experience working with people who use drugs and other substances.
- Combination of some post-secondary education and significant experience in health promotion and/or community development.
- Three to five years relevant harm reduction experience in a community setting working with homeless and marginalized populations including ex-prisoners, people with mental health issues and people who use drugs.
- Strong knowledge of current issues impacting Indigenous communities across Algoma District and the ways settler colonialism and capitalism continue to impact access to life saving services and culture.
- Valid Ontario G driver's license.
- Proficiency working with computer applications, Microsoft 365, electronic mail, scheduling, etc.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication skills both written and verbal and very strong person to person relationship-building skills. Excellent advocacy and negotiation skills.
- Excellent group facilitation, problem solving skills and demonstrated ability to prioritize multiple tasks.
- Ability to speak an Indigenous language is an asset.

Please submit a cover letter and resume no later than **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021** to Meghan Young, Executive Director, [submit@oahas.org](mailto:submit@oahas.org)

**Indigenous people living with HIV/AIDS and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.**