ACCESS – Homicide and Other Violent Crime Advocate

Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support (ACCESS) is seeking a full-time Homicide and Other Violent Crime Advocate (Violent Crime Advocate) to provide trauma informed services to victims/survivors of homicide (those who lost a loved one) and other violent crimes. The Violent Crime Advocate is responsible to the Executive Director. This position is based in Story County and will carry a caseload of largely Story County clients. Work may occur in any/all areas of ACCESS’ violent crime service area, including Iowa State University Campus, Boone, and Marshall Counties.

**Job Responsibilities**

The Violent Crime Advocate is a full-time salaried position. Responsibility of this position includes providing direct service and advocacy to victims/survivors of homicide (those who lost a loved one) and other violent crimes. The Violent Crime Advocate will establish relationships with appropriate community individuals and organizations to identify and address unmet needs in human services, mental health, housing, and financial arenas. This position participates in an on-call response and crisis-line system for victims/survivors during day, evening and weekends. The Violent Crime Advocate is responsible for the following:

**Client-Centered Advocacy**

- Provide systems advocacy to reduce barriers and promote victim/survivor connection to essential services.
- Provide expertise to agency in support and outreach to survivors of hate crimes, minority survivors of violent crime, and those that experience additional barriers to services.
- Share responsibilities of answering and responding to crisis line calls and requests for service through on-call system.
- Perform crisis advocacy and intervention to assist a victim/survivor in attaining emotional and physical safety. This can include individual and/or group counseling to victims/survivors.
- Assess client needs and work with clients on goals and objectives.
- Provide assistance to family members and supports systems of the victim/survivor when impacted by the abuse, including all forms of advocacy listed above.

**Outreach and Educational Responsibilities**

- Develop new and continue to foster existing partnerships to further reach underserved communities. At times this may include attending meetings, presentations and other awareness raising activities.
- Attend and participate in community councils, coalitions, and meetings as assigned.
- Network and collaborate with local, regional and statewide victim service providers.
- Maintain a professional and positive attitude in all interactions while representing ACCESS.

**Program and Administrative Responsibilities**

- Complete administrative duties including maintaining client files and data entry.
- Assist in the development of program goals, reporting, and grant narrative building.
- Other duties as assigned.
Expectations of Continued Learning

- Attend relevant conferences.
- Remain current on victim services research, funding expectations, and resources available to clients. This includes remaining certified once certification is complete.
- Enhance or maintain a high understanding of special populations as applies to service provision, including but not limited to youth victims, rural victims, immigrant/international victims, elder victims, male victims, LGBTQ victims, and various other populations.
- Remain informed on legislative issues. Keep current on changes in the Iowa Code.
- Gather and review program statistics as needed for grant proposals and program review.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have a proven ability to navigate evolving social climates while providing client centered care. They will be committed to completing tasks in a fast-paced environment and able to support diverse clientele while maintaining an understanding of available resources. ACCESS staff should be empathetic, inclusive and non-judgmental. Service provision should focus on the self-determination and empowerment of the victim/survivor. This position provides an opportunity to engage with community members, victim service agencies, coalitions, as well as state and local systems. We are seeking candidates who excel in:

- Client centered care
- Relationship-building with diverse populations
- Managing multiple projects
- Thinking outside the box and finding creative solutions

Due to the on call duties of this position, candidates must live within an hour of Ames once hired. As part of the hiring process we complete a background check. Not all results are disqualifying and we encourage candidates to discuss potential findings with hiring personnel.

Upon hire, all staff must successfully complete the 32-hour ACCESS victim advocacy training and continued training as needed/requested to maintain Iowa Coalition for Collective Change requirements and to meet the requirements of Chapter 915.20 of the Iowa Code.

Preferred qualifications include:

Knowledge and experience in relationship building with underserved populations and knowledge of the dynamics of violence and the impact on survivors and communities. Bilingual candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

About ACCESS

ACCESS is a victim service agency providing assistance to survivors of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and violent crime throughout Boone, Greene, Story, Marshall, and Tama Counties, whose mission is to address the roots and impact of violence through services that enhance safety, empower survivors, and promote understanding and social justice within our community. We work closely with law enforcement, advocates, community agencies, homeless prevention agencies, and court systems.
How to apply

Please send a resume and cover letter detailing how you would be an ideal candidate for the position to Tess Cody, Executive Director, at tess@assaultcarecenter.org.