

Request for Proposal: Counselling Services

Deadline for Application: Noon on October 26th, 2015

Background and Purpose:

Atira Women's Resource Society (Atira) is seeking written proposals from qualified counselors interested in providing weekly, on-site counselling services at two housing programs for women. The counselor will provide feminist-based, anti-oppression-informed individual and group counseling and treatment services for women who access services at each of the buildings. The counselor will also provide women with referrals and relevant information and will be responsible for case management. Must have or be eligible for a Service Provider Code.

Atira Women's Resource Society is a not-for-profit organization committed to the work of ending violence against women and children through providing direct service as well as working to increase awareness of and educate our communities around the scope and impact of men's violence against women and children.

We operate within a feminist, anti-oppression framework and employ harm reduction principles in all of our work. Our daily practice is also informed by our understanding of trauma and is gender responsive. Atira strives to make our services more accessible to Transgender, Queer, Two Spirited and Intersexed women. We recognize the barriers and stigmatization faced by women who do not fit into society's gender binary system and the violence, poverty, discrimination they encounter as a result. We provide services to women who have some of the most challenging behaviours, who struggle with their use of substances, who struggle with mental and spiritual wellness and who have chronic and profound health concerns. Our tenants are women who are profoundly marginalized by their experiences of poverty, homelessness, struggles with substance use, struggles with mental wellness and their experiences of violence and exploitation. This community of women is traditionally seen as hard-to-house, as their behaviours often put them at high risk and the support they need is complex.

The counselor will be working at Shimai Transition House for Women in Surrey, BC, and The Rice Block Housing for Women in Vancouver, BC. Shimai is a first-stage transition house for women and their children and The Rice Block is 38-unit, supportive housing program located in Strathcona. The counselor will work with adult women only. The Counsellor must be familiar with administering the Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST), Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST) and the Medical Triggers Screening Tool (MTST).

Responsibilities and Expectations:

- Provide feminist-based, anti-oppression informed individual and group counseling and treatment services;
- Provide screening, assessment, treatment planning and referrals;
- Provide case management, integrated case planning and after care, consultations and case reviews;
- Participate in case management activities in partnership with the women and other service providers involved;
- Provide program information, materials and discussions in a manner consistent with the Bio-Psycho-Social-Spiritual Model of addictions intervention;
- Provide services consistent with harm reduction framework;
- Be responsive to gender and age issues, culture and other individual differences with particular attention paid to aboriginal cultural and family issues in service delivery;
- Be familiar with services available within the Addiction Services Continuum, social, health, financial and other related services and their referral processes;

- Work with program staff, partner organizations, referral agencies and health authorities to increase positive outcomes for the women;
- Submit “client” activity reports and outcome reports as requested;
- Work eight-hours a week at each site for a total of 16 hours each week.

Objectives:

- Reduction in women’s substance use including a decrease in problems associated with problematic substance use;
- Women’s improved physical & psychological health;
- Women’s improved family & social functioning;
- Women’s improved educational/vocational functioning;
- Women’s reduced involvement with the criminal justice system;
- Women’s emergence from violent relationships.

Qualifications:

Applicant must have the following qualifications

- Master’s degree in Social Work or Counselling Psychology, with a minimum of two-years recent related addictions counseling experience;
- Must be eligible for registration with a relevant professional association;
- Experience working with the women who have experience violence;
- Must subscribe to a feminist analysis of violence against women and have a commitment to understanding of anti-oppression work and the intersectionality of oppressions;
- Must have a well-developed analysis of the impact/legacy of colonization and assimilation and the resulting impact on First Nations/Métis women and their children;
- Must understand substance use as it relates to women and subscribe to a harm reduction approach to treatment;
- Must be open to working with women who have experienced violence and who also struggle with substance use, and or mental wellness and or significant health concerns;
- Experience working with and or in safe/transitional housing is an asset.

Submission Requirements:

- Resume with cover letter that clearly describes how you meet or exceed the qualifications noted above and indicates your understanding of the RFP requirements.
- Describe any methodology or approach recommendations and how they will address the objectives.
- A fee proposal.

Must be able to travel between Surrey and Vancouver, BC.

Please send proposal to the attention of:

Tamar Cherniawsky

T: 604.331.1407 ext.117

E: tamar_cherniawsky@atira.bc.ca

We will confirm receipt of proposal by Noon on October 27th, 2015. If you do not receive such confirmation, please contact Tamar.