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## Homeless Engagement Specialist

**Job Title:** Homeless Engagement Specialist  
**Reports To:** Lead Homeless Engagement Specialist  
**FLSA Status:** Exempt  
**Created On:** November, 2023  
**Revised:** December, 2024

### Position Summary:

Under the supervision of the Lead Homeless Engagement Specialist or assigned designee, the Homeless Engagement Specialist is responsible for: (1) Building and maintaining relationships with individuals and families who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Hawaii County (2) Providing community referrals and completing assessments/intakes as appropriate (3) Increasing community awareness and support through community outreach and engagement (4) Utilizing strength based and trauma informed approach in all aspects of this position.

### Essential Duties & Responsibilities include the following:

- Conduct street outreach or “Canvassing” at least 3 times per week to identify individuals and families who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- Continue to engage with individuals/families experiencing unsheltered homelessness until shelter or permanent housing is obtained.
- Assist in training NPP volunteers participating in street outreach.
- Identify individual/family's needs, clarify information, provide information and referrals.
- Document, log, and report all engagements in accordance with program policies & procedures and supervisor guidance.
- Ensure accurate data collection and entry of data.
- Research and identify current and available community resources.
- Other duties as assigned

### General Expectations and Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with community agencies, members, and organizations to become familiar with the services they offer.
- Maintain a professional and respectful disposition at all times.
- Deliver all services with a high level of customer focus and service.
- Engage in active listening and use clear communication and verbal skills.
- Document all pertinent data and information regarding work with individuals, agencies, and other community members promptly in accordance with company requirements.
- Participate in organization planning.
- Attend staff meetings and trainings



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- Attend community meetings as directed.
  - Update shared calendar to reflect activities, meetings, and general schedule.
  - Participate in special grant projects and other assigned duties as directed.

### **Qualifications:**

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

### **Car Use:**

The position may require operating a company vehicle and/or personal vehicle to transport goods or personnel to various locations as needed. A valid driver's license and a clean driving record are essential for this role.

### **Education and/or Experience:**

Preferred: Associate Degree or higher

Required: High school diploma or equivalent, along with 1 year of experience serving vulnerable populations.

### **Skills and Knowledge:**

- Excellent computer literacy and knowledge of Microsoft Suite, Google Docs, and Google Sheets.
- Ability to communicate effectively and courteously with participants, staff, and community members.
- Knowledge of available community resources.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks and adhere to deadlines.
- Proven organizational and planning skills.
- Ability to work as part of a team and maintain flexibility around task assignments.
- Ability to establish, recognize, and adhere to appropriate professional boundaries.

### **Other Requirements:**

- Valid Hawaii driver's license and no-fault car insurance.
- Residents of Puna/East Hawaii Community area preferred.
- Criminal Record and/or DHS-CWS background check
- Participate in the upkeep of office and general cleanliness of workspace

### **Physical Demands:**

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.



While performing the duties of this Job, the employee is regularly required to use hands to finger, handle, or feel; reach with hands and arms; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl and talk or hear. The employee is frequently required to stand; walk; sit; climb or balance and taste or smell. There will be frequent requirements to drive and/or walk on unpaved roads. The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 25 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 pounds. This job's specific vision abilities include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and ability to adjust focus.

**Work Environment:**

The work environment characteristics described here represent those employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this Job, the employee is regularly exposed to wet and/or humid conditions and outside weather conditions. The employee is frequently exposed to fumes or airborne particles and extreme heat. The employee is occasionally exposed to moving mechanical parts. The noise level in the work environment is usually loud.

In the course of performing the duties of Homeless Engagement Specialist it is not uncommon to see, engage, or be confronted with the following: violence and threats of violence; profane, racist and/or sexist language; bodily fluids; conflict; interactions with First Responders; alcohol and other street drugs; cigarette smoke; death of service participants; nudity of service participants; people involved with sex work; people involved in the drug trade; persons used against their consent, will or knowledge; people in conflict with the law; and/or other situations that may be unsettling. Measures are taken to train staff to deal with these situations appropriately, but those in the position should reasonably expect these types of things to occur and the program leaders must provide appropriate direction and support to these situations.