



Manhattan Harm Reduction
Harm Reduction Peer Academy

Harm Reduction Peer Academy Application

<u>Cycle Season</u>	<u>Application Due Date</u>	<u>Orientation Date</u>	<u>Cycle Start and end dates and times</u>
Winter 2024	1/1/24	1/8/24	MTW 12-2 PM 1/8/24-2/14/24

Eligibility Information

The objective of the Harm Reduction Department Peer Academy is to educate people who can deliver interventions with the goal to reduce the harm caused by substance use and high-risk behaviors. Harm reduction is generally tailored to engage and address unsafe practices within marginalized populations, but harm reduction can be found anywhere.

For an individual to be considered a candidate for the Harm Reduction Peer Academy, the expectation is that they will:

- Have lived experience with HIV, Hepatitis C, or accessing harm reduction services.
- Have been enrolled in a Housing Works life-saving program or a similar program in a collaborating/partnering agency for at least 3 months.
- In compliance with program regulations and treatment plan.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate efficiently, complete given assignments, and function in a group environment.
- Be dependable, dedicated, and have a willingness to serve their community.

Applicant Name (chosen if different from legal): _____ Pronouns: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___

E-Mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

Referring Provider and Program: _____

Date of Enrollment in Referring Program: ___/___/___



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Directions:

1. Applicant must complete application to the best of their ability.
2. Provider must complete letter of recommendation.
3. Send completed application via e-mail.

Send to:

Jacob Clary
Manhattan Harm Reduction Program
743-749 E 9th St
New York, NY 10009
E-Mail: j.clary@housingworks.org
Contact Phone Number: 212-677-7999 x4507

Availability is limited: due to the ongoing pandemic, class sizes are small and we will engage in social distancing. Applicants secure a seat in the order it was received.

Purpose of Harm Reduction Peer Academy

The Housing Works Manhattan Harm Reduction and Syringe Services Program was established in October 1992. Its purpose is to provide equipment, counseling, and interventions to minimize the harmful effects of substance use and to encourage safer behaviors. This is part of a low-barrier approach to reach people who are often left out of the clinical setting and to reduce the transmission of blood-borne infections like HIV and HCV.

The goal of the Peer Academy is to provide an opportunity to work in a professional capacity delivering harm reduction interventions. The Academy provides support to the various Housing Works departments throughout the Housing Works Community and is expanding this opportunity to partnered organizations. The program requires applicants to be engaged in a service plan and to have a solid and consistent support system.

Classes are three days a week for six weeks. The curriculum is divided into two modules designed to give participants a practical foundation (Module 1) for continued, more advanced peer worker training (Module 2). After completing Module 1, participants are eligible to work as a “probationary peer” or intern while continuing in the Peer Academy. Probationary peer workers can be scheduled up to 10 hours per week, including class time, and will receive a stipend equal to \$5 per hour. Probationary peer workers would still need to apply for a full peer worker position upon completion of the Peer Academy. Full peer workers can be scheduled up to 20 hours per week, and receive a stipend equal to \$8.50 per hour.

Successful completion of the Harm Reduction Peer Academy is evaluated based on active participation in class, attendance, and exam performance. While this program does not guarantee employment after graduation, the program can assist participants might they are open to pursue available employment.



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Curriculum

Topics that are discussed in the Peer Academy as are follows:

Orientation to Harm Reduction Peer Academy:

The objective is to introduce the new harm reduction peer workers to the internal Housing Works Peer Program. The orientation will go over the expectations, responsibilities, and curriculum description, and introduce harm reduction peer workers to an additional venue to increase their professional development.

Module 1: Foundational Peer Worker Training

The objective of this module is to introduce participants to important practical aspects of professional work in the Harm Reduction field. The lessons include:

Introduction to Harm Reduction
Needlestick and Bloodborne Pathogen Prevention
Safer Substance Use
Confidentiality
Professional Boundaries
Verbal De-escalation
Outreach

Module 2: Continued Peer Worker Training

The objective of this module is to complement the practical knowledge gained in the previous courses with knowledge of Harm Reduction theory and history as well as case studies and roleplays. The lessons include:

CNS Depressants
MOUD
CNS Stimulants and other drugs
HIV History, Prevention, and Care
Viral Hepatitis
Harm Reduction and Sexual Health
Motivational Interviewing
Group Facilitation

Successful completion of Harm Reduction Peer Academy is conditional upon active engagement and participation in class, as well as adhering to our time and attendance policy (lessons begin on the hour, but a grace period of 10 minutes is allowed. Two absences per Module which can be made up on the discretion of the facilitator). Graduates will be eligible to work as a stipend worker and/or volunteer at Housing Works for an available position. The Peer Academy does not determine these eligibilities to work and stipend positions vary based on the specific needs and demands of each site, program, or department.



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Applicant: please answer these questions to the best of your ability.

1. What does Harm Reduction mean to you? How has it applied to your life?

2. Describe a time you were supported, or you supported someone else in a time of need or struggle.

3. What do you consider as important skills as a peer? What makes these skills important?

Have you ever applied to be a Peer Educator before? Yes No

a. If yes where and when? _____

b. And did you complete the program? Yes No

Have you ever been sanctioned or terminated from participating in any Housing Works or affiliated organization's programs?

a. Yes_____ No_____ If yes, please use the space below to explain what happened and what you learned from this.

I _____ have completed the application to the best of my ability.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date:

_____/_____/_____



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Referring Client’s Primary Care/Case Manager/Provider Recommendation

Instructions: **To be filled out by client’s case manager or other care provider**

- 1. Presently adheres to treatment plan/ care plan/ plan of care/ service plan.
 - a. " All the time " Most of the time " Sometimes " Rarely " Never " Not Applicable
- 2. Presently adheres to primary health care, mental health care, and social services appointments as it pertains to their treatment plan?
 - a. " All the time " Most of the time " Sometimes " Rarely " Never " Not Applicable
- 3. Presently maintained a social support system to maintain socializations skills. Social support systems include family, friends, treatment programs, day centers, religious/spiritual supports, etc.
 - a. " All the time " Most of the time " Sometimes " Rarely " Never " Not Applicable
- 4. Has the ability to express ideas and thoughts clearly.
 - a. " All the time " Most of the time " Sometimes " Rarely " Never " Not Applicable
- 5. Has the ability to respond to change and tolerate ambiguity.
 - a. " All the time " Most of the time " Sometimes " Rarely " Never " Not Applicable
- 6. Has the ability to think and act independently and goal orientated.
 - a. " All the time " Most of the time " Sometimes " Rarely " Never " Not Applicable
- 7. What setbacks have the applicant overcome?

- 8. What makes the applicant a good candidate as a peer educator?

Staff Worker Name: _____

Staff Worker Signature: _____

Date: _____