



Manhattan Harm Reduction
Harm Reduction Peer Academy

Harm Reduction Peer Academy Application

<u>Cycle Season</u>	<u>Application Send Out</u>	<u>Application Due Date</u>	<u>Orientation Date + Pre-Examination</u>	<u>Cycle Start and end dates and times</u>
Summer 2022	June 27	July 14	July 25	July 25-August 31

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: _____ Date of Birth: __/__/__

Phone Number: _____ Alternative Number: _____

Referring Program: _____

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

Referring Provider's Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

HW Client ID Number: _____



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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 three modules: a) Substance Use, b) Sexual Health, and c) Professional Development. An initial test is given to assess participants' baseline understanding of the course material, and a final exam after all modules are completed.

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 I: SUBSTANCE USE

The objective of this module is to introduce participants to the Harm Reduction model, both as a practical strategy and a broader framework for understanding social activity and risk. Participants will learn skills and practices for everyday harm reduction in the professional context.

Participants will also learn about the classes of drugs that are often encountered in Harm Reduction work, including central nervous system depressants and stimulants. We will discuss harm reduction interventions in this context, including the “Drug, Set, and Setting” model, naloxone training, and medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD), also known as medication-assisted therapy (MAT), medication-as-therapy, or simply medication.

MODULE II: SEXUAL HEALTH

The objective of this model is to introduce and discuss sexual health in the harm reduction context, and prevention and care coordination strategies for sexually transmitted infections and blood-borne pathogens. The module will focus on Hepatitis C and HIV, how these impact people who use drugs, the stigma associated with these, and treatment options.

MODULE III: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The professional development module is the last section of the course and designed to introduce and build an understanding of professional activity and workplace expectations. Discussions of Confidentiality and Professional Boundaries are the backbone of this module and will be used to inform skills trainings in verbal de-escalation, trauma-informed care, group facilitation, motivational interviewing, and street outreach using the Relational Outreach Engagement Model (ROEM).



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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 (3-absence maximum, 3-latenesses equal one absence). 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.

1. What makes you interested in Harm Reduction Peer Academy vs. other Peer Training Programs?

2. What contributions can you make to enrich the Harm Reduction community?

3. Describe a time that you used teamwork to overcome a challenging problem.



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4. Describe a time you have supported someone else that was struggling or in need of help.

5. Describe a time that you went above and beyond the call of duty.

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

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



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1. Check off up to five skills & values that apply to you:

- Grid of 25 skills and values with checkboxes: Good listener, Accountable, Creative, Hardworking, Focused, Thoughtful, Fair/ Just, Patient, Motivated, Teamwork, Dependable, Committed, Determined, Leadership, Sensitive, Trustworthy, Attentive, Humble, Persistent, Dignity, Responsible, Adventurous, Effective, Unique, Self-Control, Open-minded, Compassionate, Generous, Optimistic, Approachable, Proactive, Ambitious, Enthusiastic, Structured, Strategic, Thorough, Confident, Humorous, Practical, Caring, Passionate, Balance, Loyal, Resourceful, Supportive, Honest, Flexible, Leadership, Resilient, Adaptable.

2. Out of the five values & skills you checked off, pick 2 that stand out to you and explain why they stand out to you.

Five horizontal lines for writing an answer to question 2.

3. What are some areas you want to improve about yourself?

Five horizontal lines for writing an answer to question 3.

4. 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

5. 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.

Three horizontal lines for writing an answer to question 5.



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6. What peer position would you be interested in, provided there are vacancies?

- Care Coordination (Navigating and Accompaniment to Appointments) Outreach & HIV/HCV Testing
- Data Entry & Administrative Support Reception/Front Desk Intake & Referral Navigation
- Targeted Outreach & Client Recruitment Messenger Syringe Exchange/Harm Reduction
- Other: Please specify: _____

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 the best of your ability provide answers to the following questions below.

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: _____

HW Client ID Number: _____