

JOB POSTING

***Counselor/Advocate– Fluent Spanish, Mandarin, or Korean Required
Experience with LGBTIQ Communities Preferred
Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center
New York, NY***

The Urban Justice Center serves New York City's most vulnerable residents through a combination of direct legal and social services, systemic advocacy, community education and political organizing. The Urban Justice Center's unique model supports 12 distinct Projects that serve different populations with legal or social services, and bring the voices of their clients into broader advocacy efforts.

Founded in 2001, the Sex Workers Project (SWP) at the Urban Justice Center is the first and only program in the country to focus on the provision of legal and social services to sex workers, by protecting and promoting the rights of individuals who engage in sex work, regardless of whether they do so by choice, circumstance, or coercion. Our clients include current and former sex workers, people profiled as sex workers, and survivors of human trafficking - including people of all genders and gender expression who encounter enormous barriers to accessing services. Using trauma-informed principles, and working through a human rights and anti-oppression lens, SWP engages with this critically underserved population through therapeutic counseling and case management, legal service provision, outreach, and leadership development. We also engage in research and policy advocacy, working to document the needs of sex workers and survivors of trafficking, and educate the media, the public, and policy-makers about our findings.

This is a full-time, grant-funded position.

Essential Job Functions

- Provide free, non-judgmental comprehensive social services, through a trauma-informed lens, to a caseload of approximately 20-30 clients who have been or are involved in the sex industries or are victims of human trafficking or related trauma and participate in community trainings and relationship building.
 - Provide weekly therapy on an as-needed basis with clients to work through common issues of anxiety, depression, dissociation, and post traumatic stress disorder
 - Includes assistance with but not limited to the following concrete issues: housing, clothing, food, job training, employment search, financial management, accompaniment to appointments as needed
 - Includes support, advocacy, and counseling around but not limited to the following issues: psycho-education around trauma-related effects especially as they relate to domestic violence and human trafficking, sex work-specific issues, sex and health education, family dynamics, financial empowerment, parenting, homelessness, public assistance and medical care access

- Provide all legal advocacy (including letters of support and/or affidavits of support) for criminal, family, and immigration cases and interact with law enforcement
- Conduct phone intakes for incoming clients and respond to a variety of other caller inquiries received on SWP help line
- Provide crisis intervention and emergency care as needed
- Keep detailed case notes and fulfill all grant-reporting duties to direct supervisor
- Represent project across diverse settings, including at community-based organizations, law enforcement and courts to identify those who have been trafficked as well as sex workers in need of social/legal services and provide technical assistance on best practices for these agencies
- Participate in and/or lead coalitions, panels, trainings and task forces to build and maintain alliances with the larger anti-trafficking and sex workers advocacy networks, including on the local, regional, statewide and occasionally international levels
- Write occasional letters of inquiry for funding and/or participate in fundraising as requested by Project Director

We work from a human rights, anti-oppression, and harm reduction perspective through a client-centered approach.

Qualifications and Skills

- Ability to speak fluent Spanish, Mandarin, or Korean required.
- Masters of Social Work preferred. **Related degrees and qualifying experience will also be taken into consideration. People with lived experience are encouraged to apply.**
- Demonstrated capacity with principles of trauma-informed care
- Demonstrated understanding of working from a human rights and anti-oppression perspective
- Significant public speaking (trainings and workshops to diverse audiences)
- Very good to excellent writing skills
- Demonstrated expertise in working with a variety of systems diplomatically and effectively
- Ability to work collaboratively, to take leadership, and to take direction from a supervisor
- Ability to juggle multiple tasks, work independently, assess priorities and take initiative
- Passion for the Sex Workers' Project mission and a commitment to criminal justice reform
- Demonstrated experience with LGBTIQ communities

Salary & Benefits

Salary is commensurate with education and experience. The Urban Justice Center offers a flexible work environment and a highly competitive benefits package that includes vacation, personal, and sick time; medical and dental coverage; vision and gym reimbursements; and a 401(k) plan.

How to Apply

Submit a one-page cover letter addressed to SWP Staff, resume, and list of three professional references as a single .PDF document to mbanderson@urbanjustice.org with “Counselor/Advocate Application” in the subject line.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Due to the high volume of anticipated applications, we cannot respond to any unless selected for further consideration.

The Urban Justice Center is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, religion/creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, military status, predisposing genetic characteristics, victim of domestic violence status, or marital status.

People of color, LGBTIQ individuals, individuals who have personal experiences with poverty, experiences in sex work, and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

This is a bargaining unit position, represented for collective bargaining purposes by the National Organization of Legal Services Workers, UAW Local 2230.