



## HTH Peer Training Program

### **Information and Application packet for:**

**Fall 2020 Term**

(Training begins in July 2020)

Howie The Harp's Peer Training program offers a 20 week intensive classroom training and a 12 week internship experience that gives people in mental health recovery an opportunity to use and develop their lived experience into a professional supportive role in mental health services.

#### **To apply, applicants must (at a minimum):**

- Have a mental health diagnosis
- Have earned a high school diploma (or GED/TASC equivalent) or more
- Be a resident of New York City

We seek applicants with diverse experiences. People with mental health conditions who also have co-experiences such as a history of incarceration, homelessness, substance use, military service or identify as LGBT, for example, are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Application deadline for Fall 2020**

**Fri May 8, 2020**

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# Howie The Harp (HTH) Peer Training Program

## Overview and Outcome

Our award winning **HTH Peer Training Program** provides an intensive 20-week classroom-based training and 12 week internship experience to specifically train people in mental health recovery to work as Peer Providers in Human Services. With your full participation and commitment to our program, you will be able to:

- Establish and sustain your own self-directed recovery and care.
- Provide effective peer support services in Human Services.
- Choose, get and keep competitive employment.

Note: The HTH Peer Training Program is an application-based opportunity. You must submit an application to be considered for this rigorous and rewarding training experience. Also, application submission does not guarantee admissions. Please see the FAQ section of this packet for more information.

## The HTH Peer Training Program consists of three parts:

- I. 20 week classroom training (approx. 400+ hours)
- II. 12 week internship (work max. 24 hours per week)
- III. Competitive employment obtainment support

### I. 20 week Classroom Training

#### Curriculum Description

Our classroom curriculum is designed to develop you in three key areas of workplace effectiveness:

Personal Wellness - our training provides a solid foundation of self-directed recovery tools that every effective employee needs for work/life balance and satisfaction. Classes include: W.R.A.P., Self-Regulation, Anger Management and Conflict Resolution, Food Justice,

Professional Development - course topics not only address the how/why of the peer profession (History of the Movement, The Evolution of the Peer Specialist) but the knowledge, tools and skills that inform a well-rounded practice of Peer provision. Classes include: Stages of Change, Motivational Interviewing/Active Listening, Intentional Peer Support, Group Facilitation, Social Justice, Cultural Competence and Navigation of various Public Systems.

Work Readiness - these courses offer comprehensive training in obtaining and maintaining employment. Topics include: cover letter/resume writing, mock interviewing, Utilizing Supervision, Agency Compliance training, HIPAA laws and Writing Progress for Human Services.

## **II. 12\* week Internship**

Upon completion of the classroom training, you get to select from, and interview with, a myriad of internship partner agencies from across the NYC area. Our list of internship partner agencies includes:

- In-patient and out-patient hospital settings
- Respite centers
- PROS programs
- Supportive housing
- Mental health wellness/recovery programs
- Alternative to incarceration programs
- Co-occurring service program

Experiences you may obtain include: group facilitation, wellness coaching, navigating health/benefits systems and advocacy. You'll work 24 hours per week and receive a \$45/week stipend. You'll also attend a weekly Employment Support Group at HTH to facilitate an optimal learning experience as well as further enhance peer community around your employment goals. Internship hours can be used towards the New York State Peer Certification.

\*Note: a select few of internship partner agencies require up to 24-week commitment, but students are informed before interviewing for those positions.

## **III. Competitive Employment Obtainment Support**

Upon completion of the internship, you'll then move on to the final phase of the program – employment! You will be invited to join our Assisted Competitive Employment program where you will continue to attend Employment Support Group and meet with your Career Coach to enhance your employment search. The group camaraderie provides you with the support to enhance your job search experience. Also, agencies seeking peer providers often contact us directly for employees – part time and full time positions – which we distribute monthly.

### **Benefits of HTH Peer Training Program**

Although it is not necessary to attend and complete HTH's Peer Training Program in order to become a working peer provider, our program offers unique opportunities and benefits that other employment outlets do not offer.

#### **Classroom Instruction**

You'll be taught by working professionals. You'll practice the material among your classmates to develop your competency and understanding. Studying alongside your peers, discussions with trainers and staff bring the information alive in real-world ways. And most important to our students – you will not be alone in the process.

#### **Socialization Education (aka Social Curriculum)**

Both students and staff work together to secure a safe and functional learning environment. You'll learn to work in a group setting and be part of team – as workplace skills require.

**Supportive Peer Staff**

Our staff provides support throughout your participation in the program. As a peer run program, we understand the strengths that peers bring to the recovery process. Our intention ensures that you discover for yourself your greatest asset – personal experience. You'll be assigned to a career coach during your first week of training and they will accompany you all the way through to employment obtainment and retention.

**Annual Graduation Ceremony**

Each October, we celebrate the accomplishments of HTH graduates by providing a graduation ceremony where you, your invited guests and our program supporters come together for a luncheon program. Graduates receive certificates of completion, HTH supporters receive recognition and awards and everyone experiences a great afternoon of community!

**Peer Certification Preparation**

The New York State Peer Specialist Certification process is a simple, but detailed process. Your training at HTH will support you in obtaining the state certification as well as increase your chances of obtaining employment. Employers have told they appreciate the comprehensiveness of our program and have noted how prepared our graduates are to contribute to their recovery services.

Note: The Peer Certification is a New York State initiative of the Office of Mental Health – Consumer Affairs, separate from our peer training program. For more information about the New York State Peer Certification process/application, please contact:

New York Peer Specialist Certification Board

11 North Pearl Street, Suite 801

Albany, NY 12207

(518) 426-0945

info@nypeerspecialist.org

<http://nypeerspecialist.org>

OR: Academy of Peer Services <http://www.academyofpeerservices.org/>

## Considerations for Successful Completion of the HTH Peer Training Program

The HTH Peer Training program's design works on a group level, which means:

All expectations, standards, structures and rules support the safety and success of the entire group of trainees *as a group*. The standards provide equity to all students and offers efficient methods for employment preparation as well as self-directed recovery.

The HTH Peer Training Program is employment focused, which means:

The training and staff are solely focused on your ability to choose, get and maintain work as a peer provider in Human Services (though the skills acquired are transferable to other aspects of life) Each trainee is expected support their own well-being while abiding by the program's structure and design. Trainees often find support through each other in the classroom and may acquire referrals from their Career Coach.

The HTH Peer Training is meant to be followed "as is", which means:

The entire program – from classroom training through internship completion – offers a very specific structure *to be followed as designed and within the time structure allotted*. Any trainee who deviates from the structure may face difficulties in completing and graduating the program.

Questions to consider before and during the training:

- How do I care for myself, my concerns and needs while not interfering with other trainees doing the same for themselves?
- How do I care for myself, my concerns and needs while abiding by the HTH Peer Training structure "as-is"?
- How can I *proactively* prepare my life and my day to support my own comfort while abiding by the HTH training's structures to successfully complete the entire Peer Training Program?
- How can I support my well-being without compromising the integrity, safety and enjoyment of the Center, the services, the classroom and other people at the Center?

## FAQ: ANSWERS TO MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS

### 1) Who was Howie the Harp?

Howard Geld was a national pioneer in the peer movement. He got the nickname Howie the Harp because he played the harmonica as a street musician.

Having spent three years in psychiatric institutions in his youth, Howie said he found his cause: patient/mental health consumer/psychiatric survivor movement. (He preferred to use the term "crazy folks"!)

Howie helped start and ran several peer-led organizations in New York and California, including the Mental Health Liberation Project, Project Release, the California Network of Mental Health Clients and the Oakland Independence Support Center.

Yet, Howie recognized that transforming the mental health system required the full integration of people in recovery into the workforce, and that these workers needed the skills and knowledge to be effective change agents. As Director of Advocacy at Community Access, Howie conceived the model and developed the initial curriculum of the HTH Peer Training Program. Unfortunately, Howie died before the Center opened its doors – so it was renamed in his honor and legacy.

Howard "The Harp" Geld 1952-1995



*Excerpt from NY Times- Feb 14, 1995*

*"I've been diagnosed as a schizophrenic, as psychotic, as manic-depressive and as psychotic depressive," Mr. Geld said later. "I don't really believe in those labels, but there have been times in my life when I went into what can be called a manic episode, and when I went into severe depressions. What I'm doing with my life right now is trying to learn how to control what I call manic energy. If it can be controlled and directed and channeled, it could be really valuable and real powerful. I'd rather learn how to control it, rather than be cured of it."*

## **2) What is a typical day like in the HTH Peer Training Program?**

Each day for the 20-week classroom portion of the program, we encourage all students to arrive when our office doors open at 8:30am. You'll have time to settle into your classroom seat, eat breakfast, chat with your classmates and take care of any personal needs before the AM session starts:

### Mon through Thu

AM session: 9am to 12pm (15 min break at 10:15am)

Lunch Break: 12pm-1pm

PM session: 1pm to 3pm (15 min break at 2pm)

### Fridays

AM session only: 9am to 12pm, (15 min break at 10:15am)

Our various trainings offer lectures, discussions, role play, group work, homework as well as periodic testing to help you learn and integrate your skills in real world situations. We have staff trainers as well as 25+ consultant trainer that bring their professional experience to the topics they teach.

## **3) How much does HTH cost?**

HTH programs are free of charge for all participants. We receive funding from the Office of Mental Health (OMH), the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene (DOHMH), ACCES – VR as well as grants and generous donations from private funders.

We do request that if possible, students apply for ACCES VR services to help fund their participation in our program.

## **4) Do you offer any financial help/carfare during the training?**

We don't offer financial support but note:

If you are receiving public assistance and have been assessed as able to work with limitations' and attend HTH, you can apply through your vocational counselor at your program for carfare to attend our training.

If accepted in ACCES – VR, they can supply you with money for car fare to attend the training. During the internship portion of your training, we offer a weekly stipend and subway fare reimbursement.

## **5) I'm interested in attending the HTH Peer Training Program. I have a long-standing weekly appointment that conflicts with classroom time. What should I do?**

If you are accepted into the Peer Training program, please note we have guidelines re: absenteeism to ensure each student's knowledge and competency from the myriad of trainings. We suggest that you use the lead time between acceptance and the first day of training to reschedule your appointments.

The training runs from 8:30am-3pm Monday-Thursday & 8:30am-12pm on Friday. We ask students to schedule any appointments outside of those times.



**6) I'm concerned about my history of incarceration and/or convictions. How will that affect my chances of actually getting work?**

It depends on the conviction. *Convictions that prohibit or limit employment in social services:*

- *Sexual assault charges*
- *Arson*
- *Crimes against vulnerable populations (such as children, elderly)*
- *Violent crimes within the past 10 years*

Please check the Justice Center's website for more details

<https://www.justicecenter.ny.gov/criminal-background-check-cbc-process>

**7) How much will I get paid as a peer worker in human services?**

Pay rates are various, depending on experience, skill level required in the position etc. Our data shows the average hourly rate is close to \$13/hr and annual salary of \$30K+. You can research this on websites such as Indeed.com for specific jobs and compensation.

**8) I want to keep my SSI/SSDI benefits. Can I work part time as a peer specialist?**

Yes, there are part time peer specialist jobs available. Please check on the website [www.Indeed.com](http://www.Indeed.com) for examples of work available.

**9) This program requires a great commitment of time – can you guarantee me employment?**

Since opening our doors in 1995, HTH has established and maintained strong relationships and a positive reputation among agencies that employ peers. Agencies often seek us out exclusively for employment candidates. Due to the breadth of topics in our training, our peers have the option of seeking positions as peer providers as well as other jobs in Human Services not necessarily designated to peers.

Our training offers the time and space for you to grow in all facets of personal and professional development related to gaining long term employment. We have studied and considered the current needs in the Human Services field as well as mental health services and trends to offer the latest most up-to-date information in the classroom. We've spoken to working HTH grads and their supervisors across the city to ensure we offer information and training that supports real life situations. This program works if you work it!

With all that said – we can't *guarantee* you work. It really is up to you to commit to the program as well as to your personal growth and competency to work in the field. Our staff will work with you to identify employers with gainful opportunities.

However, be assured that between your commitment and our over 20 years of experience, your time at HTH will be well spent! ***Often Peer Specialist positions are listed with "HTH Graduate Preferred" in the qualifications section.*** Being an HTH graduate gives you an advantage when seeking peer specialist work in the New York City area.

**10) Can I bring an emotional support animal with me to class?**

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate an emotional support animal in our center or classroom training. Please note that we use trauma-informed practices to help reduce anxiety for students. Graduates have said that their classroom experience was a safe haven in their recovery and work prep process.

**11) Your program sounds great – I'd like to help empower others in their recovery, but I need to start working now. What should I do?**

HTH also offers Assisted Competitive Employment (A.C.E.) Program – a supportive employment service to help people in mental health recovery gain and sustain employment of their choosing. The program is an on-going, year-round enrollment basis. If interested, please call our main line 212-865-0775 and ask for an ACE representative or download a packet from our webpage: [www.communityaccess.org/hth](http://www.communityaccess.org/hth). This service does not include training, but is meant to support people in mental health recovery to gain and keep employment of their choice.

**12) What do HTH graduates say about their experience? What did they learn or how did they benefit from attending your program?**

*Recovery is not linear. The fact that the stumbles are part of the journey is central to personal growth at HTH and something I reinforce daily as a peer provider. Drew W*

*Throughout the training I was going through long episodes of depression and I used some of the tools I learned from HTH to walk through my depression and I was able to find a measure of peace of mind through it. Robert S*

*The greatest lesson I learned about myself is that I'm a natural leader, highly empathetic and have the strength and courage to utilize these virtues for the growth of the peer community and my personal development. Scott R*

*When I got up to present to the class, I felt this incredible calm wash over me and it stayed with me throughout my entire presentation. What I noticed was that I was at home in myself and in front of this group of people I had grown to feel great affection for. I really have no words for how important the experience at Howie and all the people I got to experience it with is to me, but I know I will always be very grateful. Melanie F*

*HTH has changed my life. I am not ashamed of who I am. I am a proud warrior and have fought the good fight to get well. Gail Z*

## **Internship/Employment Sites of HTH Students/Grads**

### **Community Access, Inc.: [www.communityaccess.org](http://www.communityaccess.org)**

Community Access expands opportunities for people living with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy and healing focused services. We are built upon the simple truth that people are experts in their own lives.

### **New York State Psychiatric Institute: <https://nyspi.org/>**

The New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI), established in 1895, was one of the first institutions in the United States to integrate teaching, research and therapeutic approaches to the care of patients with mental illnesses. In 1925, NYSPI affiliated with Presbyterian Hospital, adding general hospital facilities to the Institute's psychiatric services and research laboratories. These treatment, training, and research facilities were supplemented in 1983 by a 14-floor Psychiatric Research Building, the Kolb Annex.

### **Urban Justice Center- Mental Health Project: <https://mhp.urbanjustice.org/>**

The Mental Health Project of the Urban Justice Center is a team of attorneys, social workers and advocates dedicated to enforcing the rights of low-income New Yorkers with mental illness. We represent individual clients, bring class action lawsuits, and engage in community education and outreach with the belief that low-income people with mental illness are entitled to live stable and full lives, free from discrimination.

### **SUS - Services for the Underserved: <https://sus.org/>**

Services for the Underserved, our mission: We drive scalable solutions to transform the lives of people with disabilities, people in poverty and people facing homelessness: solutions that contribute to righting societal imbalances.

### **Manhattan Psychiatric Center:**

**<http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/facilities/mapc/facility.htm>**

Manhattan Psychiatric Center offers a range of comprehensive, evidence based inpatient and outpatient treatments for adults with mental illness.

### **CASES: The Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services: [www.cases.org](http://www.cases.org)**

By addressing factors such as lack of education, unemployment, homelessness, substance abuse, and untreated mental health disorders, CASES' innovative programs help court-involved youth and adults re-integrate into society, thereby making our communities safer and saving taxpayer dollars.

### **The Fortune Society: [www.fortunesociety.org](http://www.fortunesociety.org)**

Founded in 1967, The Fortune Society's vision is to create a world where all who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated can become positive, contributing members of society. We do this through a holistic, one-stop model of service provision. Our continuum of care, informed and implemented by professionals with cultural backgrounds and life experiences similar to those of our clients, helps ensure their success.

### **Rainbow Heights: [www.rainbowheights.org](http://www.rainbowheights.org)**

Rainbow Heights is an advocacy program for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender consumers requiring mental health services. We provide socialization, support, peer advocacy, and a safe place to take the next step on your road to emotional recovery and wellness.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Please read and follow the application directions on pages 13 & 15 of this packet.

Our application has been designed to print both single or double sided. Please ensure you fill out all necessary sections when dropping of your application or faxing, to ensure your application is complete. Please also include copies of documents which are 8 ½ by 11 in size only.

Once you have completed and compiled all the required documents, please submit your application to our offices by the deadline provided. (See Cover Page or Pg. 15).

**All documents must be submitted together - not individually.** Once received, you will be given a confirmation page (Page 15) that your application was accepted.

All applicants who have submitted a complete application, will be required to attend a mandatory group interview as part of our selection process.

**Applications can be submitted in the following ways:**

- 1) Dropped off in person to our office in Harlem, NYC.**
- 2) Emailed to Coordinator of Training; [AWright@communityaccess.org](mailto:AWright@communityaccess.org)**
- 3) Faxed to: (929-378-4065).**

Final decisions for admission are made after all group interviews are completed- (about 3 weeks after the application deadline). Each term – Spring (January) and Fall (July) - 40 students will be extended an invitation to join the training cycle. The remaining will either be placed on a waitlist or not accepted into the program. Applicants will know their status approx. 6 weeks before the training term starts.

### **Admission Status:**

**ACCEPTED** – A verbal invitation will be extended to those who are accepted into the class. If accepted, you will be asked to submit a Medical Examination & TB Elimination Verification before class begins.

**WAITLIST** – Email notification to you. Should space become available for you to join the class, you may be extended an invitation 1 week before class is slated to begin. This contact is usually done by phone or in some instances Email.

**NOT ACCEPTED** – Email notification to you. Feedback can be provided upon request as to why you were not extended an invitation. You can re-apply in the future.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

**Note: Please be sure if handwriting your responses, to print neatly.**

**FACE SHEET** – Demographic, ACCES –VR Involvement and Entitlements.

**CO-EXPERIENCE** – Please complete all the information requested truthfully and accurately. Misrepresenting, omitting and/or providing false information is not recommended.

**500 WORD ESSAY** – Please answer all 3 questions fully and succinctly:

- What is the role of a peer provider as you understand it?
- Why do you want to become a peer provider?
- What do you intend to do after completing the HTH Peer Training Program?

Please limit the essay to approximately 500 words. (1 pg typed, 2 pgs if handwritten.) Please feel free to use pgs. 21 & 22 of this application if you prefer writing.

**PSYCH EVAL** – Please provide a copy of a Psychological Evaluation **or** Psychosocial, completed within **6 months of your application submission**. A blank copy of the necessary form has been provided on pgs. 23 & 24 of this application. You can use this form, or any version provided by your representative. Anyone who is qualified to diagnose a mental health condition can complete this for you (for example: psychiatrist, psychologist, clinical social worker). Please make sure they include their Signature and License number or NPI # (National Provider Identifier Number).

**COPY OF EDUCATIONAL DEGREE COMPLETED:** Most, if not all employers in social services, require applicants to have at least a high school diploma (or GED/TASC) in order to be hired. Since our program is employment-focused, we want to make sure each student has at least this educational requirement. If you have more than a high school diploma – but cannot locate your college/graduate degree – a college transcript is acceptable for consideration into HTH. Your date of graduation must clearly be identified on the transcript. Originals are not necessary, only easily readable copies. School institutions should not mail separately to HTH offices on your behalf.

**TWO LETTERS OF REFERENCE** – We are looking for people to speak about you in a way that demonstrates your commitment to self-direction, self-awareness and personal responsibility for your own recovery as well as a commitment to contributing to others. Those who can offer references: Therapist, Case Manager, Program Manager, Religious Leader – anyone who can talk about your recovery journey. **Please only submit two (2) for consideration.**

**Resume:** We are looking to assist individuals enter the field of Human Services as Peer Specialist and your resume will eventually reflect this. We ask that with your application, you submit your resume **or** an outline of work/volunteer/internships/hobbies/interest that you have been involved with for the past 10 years. A template that may be helpful is on pg. 25.

**(Intentional Blank Page – Application Instructions Backpage)**

## HTH Peer Training Program Application Details and Checklist

If you are interested in applying to our HTH Peer Training Program, please complete all items on the checklist below and submit:

- **1. Face sheet** - pg. 17- Please complete the demographic and background information requested on pages fully.
- **2. Co-Experience Survey & ACCES VR** - pg. 19 - Applicants do *not* need to be enrolled with ACCES VR to apply to HTH. However, if accepted to HTH, all trainees will be asked to apply to ACCES-VR.
- **3. Essay** - pgs. 21 & 22 - 500-word essay (typed or handwritten) about your interest in attending the HTH Peer Training Program. In your essay please answer the following 3 questions:
  - What is the role of a peer provider as you understand it?
  - Why do you want to become a peer provider?
  - What do you intend to do after completing the HTH Peer Training Program?
- **4. Psych evaluation OR psych-social with mental health diagnosis clearly stated** - pgs. 23& 24. It must be dated within 6 months of your application's submission date. If you need to have your clinical supports complete a new psych eval for you, you can give them pgs. 19-20 from this application for your convenience. It must be completed by a licensed clinician (someone who can diagnose a mental illness). **Make sure they include their license number/stamp on this form.**
- **5. Educational Verification:** Submit a **Copy of High School/GED/TASC** or highest degree completed **Transcripts** must have **graduation date clearly stated**.
- **6. References** - **TWO** (2) letters of reference from people who know you, your potential in human services and/or your recovery journey. In the letters these individuals should tell us **how long they have known you**, in **what capacity** do they know you and **why they would recommend** you for the **HTH Peer Training Program**. References from professionals should be on letterhead.
- **7. Your Resume OR a Bulleted Outline of Work** (PT/FT/Internships, volunteerism, hobbies, or interests that you've been involved in for the past 10 years. For Outlines, use page 25.

Once you completed all **7 Sections**, please submit your application at the same time to our office. You're welcome to fax, drop off at our location (Hours Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm), or mail to:

Howie The Harp Advocacy Center  
2090 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard, 12th Floor  
New York, New York 10027  
Phone: 212-865-0775  
Fax: 929-378-4065  
Email: AWright@communityaccess.org  
**Attn: Admissions**

Completed Application Received Date  
For HTH Staff Only

Shortly after you've submitted your application with **all** supporting documents, you'll be contacted via phone or Email to attend a mandatory group interview, approx. 2-3 weeks after the deadline below. For more information about the admissions process, please refer to page 12 of this application.

**Application deadline for Fall 2020 - Fri May 8, 2020**

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**FACE SHEET INFORMATION**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

LEGAL NAME (First, Last): \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTH DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SS#: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER IDENTITY: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ APT # \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP : \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RACE: \_\_\_\_\_ ETHNICITY \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY LANGUAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDARY LANGUAGE \_\_\_\_\_

CITIZEN: ☐ YES ☐ NO RELIGION: \_\_\_\_\_ VETERAN: ☐ YES ☐ NO

MILITARY BRANCH: \_\_\_\_\_ DISCHARGE STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTITLEMENTS (circle all that apply):** HRA Cash HRA FS SSI SSD

Wrk PT or FT Unemployment Insurance Medicaid Other: \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS (circle one):

Single Married Common Law Divorced Separated Widowed

EDUCATION (Circle highest degree completed):

GED HS Trade Associates Bachelor MA/PhD

LIVING SITUATION (circle one): Shelter Single Room Occupancy (SRO)

Community Living Rental Apt/House Living with Friends/Family Homeowner

Do you participate in any other Community Access, Inc. program(s)/service(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you attend an Information Session before applying to HTH? ☐ Yes ☐ No, If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_Have you applied to HTH before? ☐ Yes ☐ No, If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

What was outcome of your application: \_\_\_\_\_

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## CO-EXPERIENCE SURVEY

Howie The Harp Advocacy Center welcomes a diverse student roster with co-experiences – people with a mental health diagnosis who also have a history of incarceration, homelessness and/or substance abuse for example. This diversity of experience reflects the needs and perspective of mental health service users – the very people HTH graduates will be supporting in their work. It's important to us as a peer program that our classroom reflect the people we support.

Please complete the following questions as accurately and thoroughly as you can.

INCARCERATION: Have you experienced incarceration? ***'Please make sure any of your convictions do not prohibit you from working in Human Services.'*** Please refer to the Justice Center's website for convictions that inhibit working in social services: <https://www.justicecenter.ny.gov/criminal-background-check-cbc-process>

☐ YES ☐ NO

SUBSTANCE USE: Do you have alcohol/substance use recovery experience?

☐ YES ☐ NO

HOMELESSNESS: Do you have homelessness experience?

☐ YES ☐ NO

LGBTQ: Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQ community?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If you answered **"YES"** to **any of the above questions**, please provide explanations of these experiences? You may also expound on your experience(s) in your essay?

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***Other than mental health experiences***, please describe any other unique personal experiences in your background that may reflect the needs or experiences of peers currently seeking services (This may include military service, membership in a marginalized group, or life events that affected your personal wellness or recovery)

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### ACCES-VR INFORMATION (formerly VESID)

ARE YOU CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN ACCES-VR? ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF NO: Were you ever enrolled in ACCES-VR/VESID? ☐ Yes ☐ No Year: \_\_\_\_\_

IF YES: ACCES-VR Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Borough Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of last Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Has ACCES-VR sponsored you for other trainings? ☐ Yes ☐ No What training? \_\_\_\_\_

**(Intentional Blank Page – Co Experience Survey Backpage)**

**500 WORD ESSAY**                      **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pg. 1**

**Pg. 1**

Please answer all 3 questions fully and succinctly: PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

- What is the role of a peer provider as you understand it?
- Why do you want to become a peer provider?
- What do you intend to do after completing the HTH Peer Training Program?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pg. 2**

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*CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL REPORT-- PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITY*

Psychiatrist Name and Address

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Consumer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Salient Psychiatric History (Onset, course, hospitalizations, treatments, etc.):

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2. Psychiatric Diagnosis:

Category: 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Other (non-psychiatric): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Additional Studies (Psychological tests, CNS studies, perception, laboratory, etc.):

<u>Performed</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Results:	Reasons:

4. Current Findings (mental status, cognitive ability, affective derivatives, behavior, symptoms, organicity, stability of condition, etc.):

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5. Current Medication and Therapy (Type and frequency, progress to date/projected need:

Mental health estimate      [ ] Excellent    [ ] Good    [ ] Fair    [ ] Poor

Name of primary therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Discuss your opinion on the following factors to be considered in relation to training, education and employment:

A. **Interpersonal Factors** (sources of support or stress in the home, environment and/or work situation that should be enhanced or modified and avoided).

B. **Personal Awareness and Motivation** (degree of understanding of capacities and limitations; realistic decision making skills; ability and willingness to participate in a structured work-related program)

C. **Functional Limitations** (response to pressure, supervision, working conditions, etc.):

Work ability estimate            ☐ Excellent    ☐ Good    ☐ Fair    ☐ Poor

D. Other (pertinent factors which will assist in planning and working with the individual):

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Last Examined

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examined By

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Report

\_\_\_\_\_  
Report Completed By

*Report must be signed or co-signed by a qualified psychiatrist*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Co-signer

Stamp or License Number:



10 YEAR HISTORY OUTLINE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLETE IF YOU HAVE NOT PROVIDED A COPY OF YOUR RESUME

Next to each bullet, outline any Part-Time/Full Time/Internships, you may have done. You can also choose to write in volunteer work with neighbors, community involvement, or hobbies you've been involved with that details interests you may have.

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