



## **VICTIM ADVOCATE**

*Part-time, Non-exempt Position*

The Our Deaf Survivors Center, Inc. (ODSC) is a non-profit organization that serves Deaf\* survivors of domestic and sexual violence and provides prevention education to the general community.

### **General Description:**

This part-time, 25 hours/week position is responsible for providing crisis intervention, support, advocacy, and referral services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence through our ODSC office in Worcester, MA. This position is scheduled for 9 AM-5 PM, Monday – Friday with the flexibility required for infrequent after-hours client support needs. The position is based out of ODSC's Worcester office and is supervised by ODSC's Advocacy Program Manager.

### **The ODSC's Victim Advocate provides the following services:** *(25 hours; continued employment contingent on grant funding)*

- Provides crisis interventions for victims/survivors.
- Provide support and advocacy to victims/survivors of DV/SV to assist them in creating safety plans; educate on choices and rights; and connect with community resources.
- Provide legal advocacy such as
  - work with victims/survivors on filling protective orders.
  - refer to legal services.
  - accompany to court appointments.
  - navigate with victims/survivors through the legal system.
  - give information on civil, criminal, and family law and immigration rights.
- Work with victims/survivors living in emergency shelters; addressing conflicts; assist with finding housing, and connect with community resources.
- Case management services – assistance with identifying community supports to meet medical, economic, child care, substance abuse, and other needs.
- Provide medical advocacy such as
  - accompanying survivors to relevant medical appointments.
  - connect to medical and mental health resources.
- Take a role in participating projects for the ODSC and/or advocacy services program such as activities for survivors, community engagements, vlogs, and projects to meet the needs of ODSC.
- Seeks out support from colleagues and supervisor, proactively takes accountability for self and work.
- Maintains accurate service data in database; complete necessary paperwork and forms related to advocacy services for survivors.
- Effectively utilizes staff, advocacy services, and supervision meetings.

### **Required Qualification:**

- Bilingual/bicultural strongly preferred
- Fluency in American Sign Language and the ability to communicate with Deaf\* clients in their preferred mode of communication
- Bachelor's degree and/or another relevant field of study; or five (5) years of experience in direct care, independent living, case management services, or domestic/sexual violence services
- Commitment to and experience providing trauma-informed support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Commitment to promoting equity and inclusion amongst survivors, team members, and community members
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively as part of a team
- Ability to multitask
- Creative use of critical problem-solving
- Motivated and resourceful

**Reports to:** ODSC Advocacy Program Manager

**Position Requirements**

- Initial 35 hours of SA training + 25 hours of DV training
- 6 hours SA training annually; 12 hours DV training annually (continuing education)
- Attend regular supervision, team meetings and all staff meetings
- Able to flex hours to meet position responsibilities
- Must have reliable access to transportation
- Familiarity with basic computer/internet use

*ODSC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, S/CODA, Hard of Hearing, Survivors of interpersonal violence, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+-identified persons are encouraged to apply.*

ODSC will not discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, color, gender, age, sex, ethnicity, income, military status, religion, national origin, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political ideology, ancestry, status as a domestic violence or sexual assault survivor, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability.

**To apply:**

Please email your cover letter, resume, and three written recommendation letters to Heather Daley at [ed@odscunity.org](mailto:ed@odscunity.org) with “ODSC Victim Advocate” in the subject line, or mail to ODSC Attn: Heather Daley, P.O. Box 2276, Worcester, MA, 01605-2276.

*Pay: starts at \$25/hour*

Position open until filled.

Interviews are scheduled as material received, so applicants are encouraged to submit early.

\*Deaf – ODSC has adopted with minor adaptations, the definition of ‘Deaf’ that is used by the National Deaf Center (NDC). ODSC is using the term *deaf* in an all-inclusive manner, to include people who may identify as D/deaf, DeafBlind, deaf-blind, deaf with additional disabilities, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and/or persons with unilateral/bilateral hearing loss. Source: <https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/defining-deaf>.