

Senior Program Counselor

GENERAL SUMMARY

Manages all aspects of Crime Victims' Rights program through grant administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health. Primary function of the job is to provide information, assistance, advice, and guidance to crime victims. Interviews and counsels clients, researches claims and conditions, determines accuracy of information and eligibility status, and provides referral services. Acts as an advocate or counselor for clients. Employees in this job supervise other assistants including volunteer and internship positions. Employees may train, guide, prioritize, or lead case management assistants or other employees in the designated work unit. Employees work as part of a team and are responsible for ensuring that the team meets its objectives.

Employees must meet the minimum requirements, conditions of employment, and be able to successfully perform all essential duties and responsibilities with or without reasonable accommodations.

This position may require irregular hours. This position may also require travel by the employee in his/her own vehicle.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (may include but are not limited to the following)

- Manages the daily operation of Victims' Rights Program to include coordination of grant funding and reporting, as well as making policy and procedure recommendations.
- Advises and counsels clients and provides information regarding services and benefits available to them and/or refers them to proper outside agencies when applicable and updates clients as changes occur, which may include coordinating the scheduling of appointments for applicable services.
- Receives, reviews, analyzes, and evaluates a variety of information associated with assigned programmatic area and makes recommendations based on findings.
- Checks and certifies each case to ensure all necessary documentation and criteria have been met.
- Assists clients and their families in filing their applications for services and benefits and acts as liaison between the client/family and outside agencies.
- Writes appeals for determinations made by federal, state and local agencies.
- May act as an authorized agent or custodian of state and county emergency relief programs and may intervene when necessary to address emergent situations.
- Assists attorneys with all aspects of preparing victims for hearings and/or trials.
- Participates in/on meetings, committees, and/or other related groups involving other agencies, service organizations, hospitals and other community groups in order to receive and convey information.
- Serves as a liaison between assigned programmatic area and other internal departments, external agencies, and/or other interested parties.

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- Corresponds with appropriate agencies in order to secure required documentation to properly submit necessary claims or obtain necessary services for clients from State and County agencies.
- Conducts field trips to assist clients who cannot come to the office to file for benefits and services.
- Prepares and facilitates training sessions and/or presentations to internal employees, groups, and/or other interested parties related to available programs in assigned area of responsibility.
- Maintains information, data, and statistics on operational activities and prepares related reports.

EDUCATION, FORMAL TRAINING, AND EXPERIENCE (minimum requirements)

- Associate's (two-year) degree in Counseling or a related field.
- Two to four years of related experience.
- A four-year college degree in a related field may substitute for up to one year of required experience. Two years directly related experience may substitute for each year of the education requirement, if there is demonstrated knowledge, ability, and skills to perform the work.

CERTIFICATIONS, LICENSES

- Must have valid driver's license and personal vehicle insurance and maintain eligibility to drive as per the County's Vehicle policy.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT (minimum requirements - legal or contractual pre-employment obligations and/or requirements, such as drug testing, background check, etc.)

A background check may be required initially and periodically for an individual hired, transferred, reclassified, promoted, or currently working in this job. Appointment to or continued employment in this job is contingent upon a satisfactory background check which may include but is not limited to: confirmation of a persons' identity; review of criminal conviction records; verification of educational degree, license, or certificate required for the position; review of Department of Motor Vehicles records; Department of Justice fingerprint scan; and/or drug and alcohol testing as required and allowable by law. A satisfactory background check is defined as the absence of a criminal history record which bears a demonstrable relationship to the applicant's or employee's suitability to perform the required duties and responsibilities of the position.

May be required to serve in an "on-call" capacity.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Work performed involves the exercise of considerable discretion and independent decisions based on professional knowledge, with a manager available for consultation in difficult situations. Regular communications with the general public and the handling of difficult people is expected. Errors at this level could cause serious, long-term consequences involving substantial financial costs, significantly reduced service to the public, and/or negative media reaction. These errors affect others outside of a department and may require the intervention of an agency head to resolve.

Compared to Friend of the Court Case Managers, this job does not involve conducting investigations, mediating between parties, and is not responsible for enforcing court orders.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS, WORK ENVIRONMENT, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Work is primarily performed in an office or indoor environment
- May be required to reach with hands and arms; sit; stand; talk and hear; use hands to finger, handle, or feel
- May be required to lift/move up to 50 pounds (such as a box of paper)

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, COMPETENCIES (minimum requirements)

- Proficiency in English grammar, spelling, punctuation, and simple mathematical functions such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, percentages, ratios, etc.
- Knowledge of generally accepted accounting and bookkeeping principles
- Advanced knowledge related to the department or function, and general County operation and organization
- Ability to detect errors, determine causes, and make corrections as appropriate
- Skill in operation of modern office equipment such as personal computer, facsimile, copiers, scanners and telephones
- Skill in use of personal computer software, including advanced spreadsheet development and word processing
- Interpersonal skills necessary to develop and maintain effective and appropriate working relationships with customers, co-workers, and representatives of other agencies.
- Skilled in researching and resolving complex problems to ensure compliance
- Ability to coordinate, develop, layout and implement clerical procedures and operations
- Ability to consistently demonstrate sound ethics and judgment
- Ability to think analytically and apply sound judgment, solve problems, make effective decisions, and act with integrity
- Ability to explain complex policies and processes in layman's terms
- Ability to facilitate and coordinate meetings effectively and efficiently
- Ability to comprehend, process and apply both verbal and written skills appropriate to the job

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- Ability to accurately organize and maintain paper documents and electronic files
- Ability to maintain the confidentiality of information and professional boundaries
- Able to use County resources effectively and efficiently