



**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DIVISION OF DISEASE CONTROL (DDC)
(June 2020)**

POSITION TITLE: COVID-19 Social Worker

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), through its newly created Division of COVID-19 Containment, is responsible for monitoring COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 exposure within Philadelphia and developing appropriate mitigation strategies. In order to do this, PDPH is expanding its surveillance and detection capabilities to ensure that cases of COVID-19 in Philadelphia residents are quickly identified and investigated. As the lead agency responding to this public health crisis in Philadelphia, this Division will also work to educate residents on COVID-19, develop policies to slow the spread of disease, manage isolation & quarantine sites, provide infection control guidance to healthcare institutions and work with partners to address other public health issues related to COVID-19 as they arise in the City of Philadelphia.

A large component of surveillance and response activities is isolation of ill individuals and quarantine of exposed individuals to ensure disease incidence remains low. There are several challenges associated with isolation and quarantine measures for people who are experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health conditions, intellectual disabilities and others. PDPH, with other city agencies, has expanded capacity to provide temporary accommodation for these people to observe them through their isolation or exposure period.

This position is full-time, Monday through Friday, with occasional work after hours and on weekends to support response activities. The position is grant funded for a minimum of one year. Overtime compensation may be available based on evolving response. Continuation of the position is dependent on sustained grant funding

SPECIFIC DUTIES

- Coordinate with providers, social workers at healthcare facilities and leadership at shelters, group homes and other congregate settings to assess an individual's needs and determine whether they meet criteria for admission to temporary COVID housing
- Work with staff at COVID housing facilities to secure a room for individuals after being evaluated by a provider
- Follow up regularly with individuals to ensure their needs are being met while temporarily housed in our facility. This might include purchasing medications or other supplies and delivering them to the COVID housing facility and working with facility management to make adjustments as necessary.

- Coordinate with Office of Homeless Services to assist individuals in finding alternative housing and ensure they are healthy enough to return to living in a congregate setting
- Advise shelters experiencing outbreaks on when to refer individuals to us and work with an Infection Control Expert to inform them how best to prevent the spread of disease in their facility

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree, preferably in public health or biologic/social science along with demonstrated interest in social work and experience with community engagement
 - Masters degree in social work preferred
- Excellent communication and organizational skills, and attention to detail
- Ability to interact appropriately and effectively with a wide range of persons
- Candidates should have strong critical thinking skills, excellent English language skills, including composition, grammar, and public speaking
- Experience conducting telephone-based or in-person interviews and Spanish language fluency are advantageous
- Computer skills are necessary and should include the ability to access and navigate various databases and software programs following training
- Flexibility, professionalism and the ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously are highly valued attributes
- Equally comfortable working individually and within a team environment that emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration in a dynamic urban health department
- Valid driver's license is required in order to facilitate local travel

WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

This job may require moderate physical effort including lifting materials and equipment of less than 50 pounds and involves viewing a CRT or VDT screen 50 to 75 percent of the time. The position may require some travel and occasional participation in off-site functions. The position requires responding to public health emergencies and at times requires rapid turnaround of communications on short notice.

SUPERVISION

This position reports directly to the Isolation & Quarantine Program Manager.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. This position comes with a comprehensive benefits package consisting of medical and dental coverage, paid sick, vacation, and personal time, and a retirement plan.