



## Job Announcement Statewide Victim Advocate Position

### **Organizational Overview:**

Deaf Unity was formed in 2005 by Deaf Community professionals, grassroots leaders, and supporters from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Disability Rights Wisconsin, the then-Department of Health and Family Services, and the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. It was recognized that there was a truly significant need for American Sign Language (ASL) based services for Deaf victims experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Before Deaf Unity was formed, Deaf victims faced numerous barriers in getting services from mainstream domestic violence and sexual assault programs, because they did not have advocates who knew ASL and could communicate with Deaf victims or did not know how or where to get qualified interpreters for services.

### **Mission:**

ALL DEAF PEOPLE ~ ADULTS AND CHILDREN ~ HAVE THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY AND VIOLENCE-FREE LIFE.

**Job Description:** The Statewide Victim Advocate is responsible for providing crisis intervention, advocacy, empowerment, and accompaniment services as well as physical and emotional support for Deaf victims of crimes in Wisconsin. This position carries client confidentiality privilege and will maintain confidentiality.

### **Essential Job Responsibilities:**

- Provide core advocacy services to clients needing domestic violence/sexual assault services; support victim in all phases of service continuum; advocate for and accompany client to community programs and services.
- Provide information on victimization, crime prevention, victims' legal rights and protections and the criminal justice process.
- Provide emotional support, safety planning, referrals, and resources to victims.
- Participate in outreach efforts in the Deaf community.
- Provide technical assistance to mainstream DV/SA agencies (how to obtain interpreters, how to contact Deaf Unity, etc.).
- Assist Executive Director with monthly collection of data and statistical reports.
- Covers hotline duties as assigned.
- Participates in other projects assigned by Executive Director.

### **Additional Job Responsibilities:**

- Provide back-up support to other staff in client services.
- Assist the Executive Director with Annual Report, strategies and visions for the future.
- Maintains an organized and clean work environment.
- Maintains organized files (both physical and electronic).
- Ability to travel as necessary to provide services and attend trainings, meetings, etc.
- Builds and maintains client/community satisfaction with the services offered by Deaf Unity.
- Share a commitment to Deaf Unity's mission to achieve health equity and improve the safety and well-being of Deaf people and community throughout Wisconsin.
- Demonstrate a cooperative, friendly, compassionate, and helpful attitude when working as a Deaf Unity employee.

### **Required Skills and Competencies:**

- At least 3 years' experience in the Deaf community, either as an employee or volunteer.
- At least 2 years' experience in advocacy or education work with Deaf people.
- Fluent in American Sign Language (ASL).
- Demonstrated exceptional communication, interpersonal and listening skills with the ability to empathize and develop support strategy approaches.
- Excellent detail-oriented organizational, analytical, and problems solving skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously, meet time sensitive deadlines and organize workload with general supervision.
- Demonstrates strong problem-solving skills with the ability to make sound, valid decisions that are in the best interest of clients and Deaf Unity.

- Possess extensive knowledge of domestic violence and sexual assault issues.
- Performs with a high-level attention to detail and strong customer service skills with demonstrated relationship building skills.
- Maintains confidentiality and earns others' trust and respect through consistent honesty and professionalism in all interactions.
- Possess the ability to work both independently and as an instrumental part of a team.

**Preferred Skills and Competencies:**

- Proficient with Microsoft Office applications and databases.
- Degree in Human Services or related field.
- Knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Ability to communicate and present to groups of people, educate the public.

**Working Conditions:**

- Must have valid driver's license for travel to client locations, trainings, meetings, etc. or the resources to be able to travel.
- Some after-hour work for company functions to include networking/community events and managing client needs is required.

**Reports to:** Executive Director

**Job Type:** Full-time

**Pay:** Negotiable depending on experience.

**Benefits:**

- Competitive salary package
- Cash payout for Benefits
- PTO
- Holiday pay

**Schedule:**

- Monday to Friday
- Occasional weekends and evenings

**COVID-19 Precaution(s):**

- Remote Interview process
- Virtual meetings

**Application package requirements:** Send to Tamara Fuerst, Executive Director, [tamara@deafunitywi.org](mailto:tamara@deafunitywi.org)

- 1) Resume
- 2) Cover Letter
- 3) Letters from three References that includes their contact information

**Position will remain open until filled.**

*Deaf Unity is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.*