



## **Peer Support Group Facilitator**

**REPORTS TO:** Mental Health Specialist **Supervises:** None

The Modern Military Association of America (Modern Military) is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing fairness and equality for the LGBTQ+ military and veteran community. Through education, advocacy, and support, we are making a real difference in the lives of LGBTQ+ service members, military spouses, veterans, family members, survivors, and caregivers.

### **Position Summary**

We are seeking a compassionate and empathetic Peer Support Group Facilitator to lead support groups for veterans in the suicide prevention program. The Peer Support Group Facilitator will create a safe and supportive environment for group members to share their experiences, receive encouragement, and build connections with others who understand their struggles. This role requires strong interpersonal skills, cultural competencies, and knowledge in the areas of suicide prevention, particularly within the veteran and LGBTQ+ communities.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

#### **1. Support Group Facilitation**

- Lead peer support group sessions in accordance with established guidelines, promoting a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all participants.
- Facilitate group discussions, activities, and exercises to encourage mutual support, empathy, and empowerment among group members.
- Provide emotional support, validation, and active listening to individuals sharing their experiences and challenges.

#### **2. Cultural Competency**

- Demonstrate cultural competencies in working with diverse populations, including veterans, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and those living with HIV.
- Understand and respect the unique experiences, identities, and needs of group members from different backgrounds.

#### **3. Suicide Prevention Competency**

- Possess knowledge and understanding of suicide prevention principles, risk factors, warning signs, and intervention strategies.
- Offer resources, referrals, and support to group members who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts or behaviors.

#### **4. Group Management, Documentation, and Grant Compliance**

- Manage group dynamics and ensure a respectful and supportive environment for all participants.
- Maintain confidentiality and adhere to ethical standards in handling sensitive information shared within the group.
- Document group attendance, participation, and any significant interactions or concerns in accordance with Modern Military and grant policies.
- Ensure compliance with relevant laws, regulations, grant guidelines, and ethical guidelines governing peer support services.

#### **5. Crisis Intervention and Support**

- Provide immediate assistance and support to clients experiencing emergent or acute mental health crises. Provide a warm handoff to the mental health specialist to ensure appropriate suicide risk assessment and interventions occur.

#### **6. Additional Responsibilities**

- Collaborate with program staff and mental health professionals to ensure coordination of care and access to additional support services for group members.



- Participate in team meetings, supervision sessions, and program planning activities as required.

### **Ideal Qualifications**

Ideal candidates should have:

- Lived experience with mental health challenges and/or recovery, veterans and the LGBTQ+ community.
- A personal understanding of the issues within the specialized support group topic area (living with HIV, intimate partner violence, military sexual trauma, suicide postvention, and general LGBTQ+ support)
- Demonstrated experience facilitating support groups or leading peer-to-peer initiatives.
- Knowledge of veteran and LGBTQ+ cultural competencies and issues related to mental health within these communities.
- Familiarity with suicide prevention principles, resources, and best practices.
- Strong communication, active listening, and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to establish rapport and build trusting relationships with individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- Commitment to confidentiality, ethical conduct, and professional boundaries.

### **Compensation**

This is a contracted position with a maximum payrate of \$100 per peer support group session.

### **Equal Opportunity Employer**

It is Modern Military policy to select the best-qualified person for each paid or volunteer position. Modern Military utilizes a DEIJ approach to ensure that there are a wide variety of diverse applicants from protected groups and other nondominant identity traits. This applies to hiring, developing, and promoting individuals within the organization.

In all employment-related matters, Modern Military prohibits discrimination based on an individual's gender, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, complaint of discrimination or harassment, participation in any investigation or other proceeding relating to a complaint of discrimination or harassment, or any other legally protected status.

Modern Military is committed to complying fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), state, and local disability laws to ensure equal opportunity in employment, service delivery, programs, and activities for qualified persons with disabilities. All employment practices and activities are conducted on a non-discriminatory basis. Pre-employment inquiries are made only regarding an applicant's ability to perform the essential duties of the position.

### **To apply**

Interested candidates should send a resume and a one-page cover letter (why you want to work with Modern Military and how your past experiences have provided you the skills to succeed in this role). **Please put Peer Support Group Facilitator in the subject line and email to [info@modernmilitary.org](mailto:info@modernmilitary.org).** Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

This position is contingent on federal grant funds which will be announced in September 2024. Contracts are for October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025. Employment is not guaranteed beyond the expiration of the grant. This role (unless otherwise specified) may be remote with a preference for individuals located in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia region as the potential grant funding supports individuals located within [VISN 5](#).