



HOGG MENTAL HEALTH PEER POLICY FELLOW LOCATED IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan policy reform and advocacy organization that believes every person has inherent worth and can contribute to a vibrant, safe community. As such, we encourage applicants with diverse backgrounds to apply. We are driven by our values (shared on our website), which inform our goals and shape our daily interactions. We provide research and other resources to policy-makers, system practitioners, advocacy and other organizations, community members, and the media to promote responsible and fair youth and adult justice policies in Texas. We build coalitions among grassroots and grassroots communities, including unlikely allies and impacted communities, to strengthen opportunities for reform.

Position Overview

This is an 8-month full-time position made possible through the support of the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. TCJC seeks to educate decision-makers about the harmful impact of relying on policies and investments that support a *criminal justice* response to mental health and substance use disorders; instead, we support a shift in resources that enables greater capacity for community-based treatment and therapeutic programs that exist outside of the justice system. This fellowship position will help TCJC staff advocate for reforms intended to reduce the number of people entering state and local jails with mental health and/or substance use disorders. The position will be an integral part of the organization, engaging in research, analysis, writing, education, and advocacy.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

- Aid in planning and coordinating local stakeholder meetings around the need for a community-based public health approach to mental health and substance use disorders, to include identifying partners, conducting outreach, and supporting logistics for convenings.
- Help build a network of contacts, especially people with lived experience, leaders from impacted communities, and others who can be mobilized to engage decision-makers at the state and local level.
- Partner with grassroots organizing initiatives and strengthen their efforts to promote decarceration strategies, including by preparing materials that engage coalition partners, stakeholders, and the public.
- Collaborate with fellow TCJC staff and partners to solicit regular community input about a public health approach to mental health and substance use disorders, and provide that input to decision-makers.
- Provide research to support relevant state- and local-level policy reforms, including by identifying model programs, collecting and analyzing data, and interviewing stakeholders and practitioners.

- Draft written materials to support public education and legislative advocacy, including short reports, fact sheets, and other documents as needed.
- Prepare and deliver presentations and testimony to support advocacy efforts as needed.
- Communicate regularly with supervisor and team about progress.

Supervision Received

The Peer Policy Fellow will report to TCJC's Senior Policy Analyst, who will maintain regular supervision and support throughout the duration of the fellowship. The Senior Policy Analyst has a Master's Degree in Social Work, has a history of leadership in policy development and advocacy, is an experienced field supervisor and teacher, and has lived experience with mental health issues, a substance use condition, and criminal justice system involvement, making him highly effective in providing supervision and mentorship.

Qualifications & Skills

Qualified applicants will be certified as a mental health peer specialist or substance use recovery coach (or be seeking certification) with two years of recent employment of some type (paid or volunteer). Applicants should have a commitment to justice reform that is consistent with the mission of TCJC.

Preferred applicants will have the following characteristics:

- Understanding of community needs related to mental health and substance use disorders, and a general knowledge regarding the provision of mental health and substance use treatment services in Texas.
- A broad understanding of the Texas criminal justice system and the collateral consequences of system involvement among individuals, families, and communities.
- Strong writing skills to produce a range of materials in support of the project goals.
- Effective verbal communication skills with a reasonable level of comfort presenting information to a wide range of groups, such as decision-makers, system practitioners, and system-involved individuals.
- A keen ability to build and maintain contacts among a diverse range of individuals, and an attentiveness to communicating effectively to accomplish project goals.
- An aptitude to incorporate information and learn quickly, while being solution-oriented and keeping a positive attitude.
- An ability to focus in a team environment and to complete assignments thoroughly – either independently, with supervision, or collaboratively.
- Strong time-management skills necessary to prioritize tasks and to meet objectives in a timely manner.
- An ability to work flexible hours and be available for contact outside office hours as needed during peak periods or if traveling.
- A willingness and ability to travel, including by car or plane, as needed to support the objectives of this position.
- Proficiency in using Microsoft suite, including Outlook, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, and the ability to adapt and commit to using other software or technology as needed.
- An ability to use social media on occasions as needed to support the project.

Compensation and Benefits

TCJC will provide an annualized salary of \$48,000 per year. TCJC offers the following benefits: health, dental, life insurance; 401(k) retirement services upon 1 year of service; 15 paid holidays; and 30 days paid time off, including vacation, sick, and personal time.

TCJC offers ongoing professional development and training, and an inclusive work environment for you to grow personally and professionally.

Application

We would love to learn more about why you are interested in this position, and your life experiences that most qualify you for this fellowship. Please send a cover letter and your résumé by email to jobs@TexasCJC.org, and note "Peer Policy Fellow" in the subject line.

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The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will be considered based on individual qualifications, without unlawful discrimination based on race, color, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, familial status, military status, and any other protected class. We value diversity and encourage people of color, LGBTQ applicants, and people with prior justice system involvement to apply.