

Community Health Worker

Organization Description

Surveys have shown that up to 30% of kids in Harlem have asthma compared to 8% of kids citywide. a.i.r. harlem, where a.i.r. stands for *asthma intervention and relief*, is a care coordination program created in 2001 to help asthmatic kids stay healthy, in school, and out of the hospital. a.i.r. harlem currently serves over 600 families of children and teens ages 0-17 who live in or attend school in Harlem.

Students with poorly-controlled asthma often have high rates of school absence, emergency department visits, and hospitalizations that interfere with their academic performance as well as the quality of life of the whole family. When parents are forced to miss work in order to care for sick kids, socio-economic hardship is worsened. But asthma can be controlled and no child should be missing any school due to asthma.

a.i.r. harlem is a community-based, home-visiting program that employs an evidence-based model for helping families control asthma and maintain healthy, active lives. Our staff members work closely with families, schools, community-based organizations, and health care providers to coordinate prevention and control efforts for maximum impact.

a.i.r. harlem is a collaborative partnership among Harlem Hospital Center's Department of Pediatrics, the Harlem Children's Zone, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and a range of other community-based organizations and schools.

Community Health Worker (CHW) Key Responsibilities

The Community Health Worker-client relationship breaks down the barriers (e.g., health literacy, language) to accessing quality primary and specialty healthcare. a.i.r. harlem CHWs forge relationships with families during home visits over a one-year period or longer if needed. During these visits, CHWs work with families to address all aspects of asthma-control, including the management of medications that can be difficult to grasp during rushed visits with healthcare providers as well as the home environment where mold, dust, and pests may be triggering asthma.

CHWs have deep knowledge of and are invested in the communities we serve and are culturally competent in their style of relating to families. Staff are equipped with laptop computers in the field to enhance communication across the care coordination team, increase the efficiency and accuracy of data collection, and monitor progress toward program goals in real time.

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The core duties of a.i.r. harlem CHWs are the following:

- Conduct baseline and follow up assessments of health, medical, and environmental status of participating children and their caregivers in the client's home
- Enhance participants' understanding of and adherence to prescribed asthma medications
- Work with families to develop and accomplish asthma management goals
- Provide guidance for mitigating asthma triggers including stress
- Connect participants with free legal and social services as appropriate
- Provide information on available levels of service including how to navigate the local healthcare system
- Remain in frequent contact with families to check on asthma and general health status
- Recruit eligible families to participate in a.i.r. harlem by working with local schools and community organizations

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Public Health, Adult Education, Social Work, or related field
- English required
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills; must be a team player
- Experience providing health education—in group and individual settings
- Strong organizational skills; ability to manage a large caseload of families and stay on task
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office including Outlook for scheduling visits
- Experience using a database including the ability organize, enter, and report on data collected
- Capacity to anticipate and solve problems
- Flexibility with the changing needs and schedules of families; ability to work occasional Saturdays

Anticipated start date: May 15, 2013

Salary range: \$32,000 - \$35,000

Excellent benefits provided, including health, dental, 401k, and monthly MTA pass.

a.i.r. harlem staff members are employees of the Fund for The City of New York (FCNY).

FCNY is an equal opportunity employer.

To apply for this position, please submit a cover letter and resume to by April 21, 2013:

Miriam Falconi, Project Officer, info@harlemasthma.org.

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