

Volunteer Support Worker

(Community Re-Entry Support Program)



The Agency

The Calgary John Howard Society (CJHS) is a community-based charitable organization dedicated to reducing the incidence of crime and increasing community safety through preventative and restorative justice practices. To accomplish these ends, we provide direct services to individuals at risk, advocacy for effective responses to crime with the individuals involved and education for youth and adults in the community.

The Program

The Community Re-entry Support Program provides a link to the community for incarcerated individuals through the provision of direct assistance, information, advocacy, guidance and related support. It is aimed towards reducing the negative impact of incarceration by providing appropriate direction and support that will assist individuals during and following their incarceration to minimize social exclusion and increase the likelihood of successful integration. Any individuals who are incarcerated in the Calgary Remand Centre, provincial and/or federal custody facilities and who will be released from custody to the Calgary community may access the services. A continuum of service is established while working with these incarcerated individuals and continued support is provided upon release into the community. Upon entry to the program we work to connect individuals as quickly as possible to supports and appropriate resources, continuing with case management support and working towards successful reintegration into the community.

The Position

The Volunteer Support Worker will work directly with the Community Re-entry Support Program to ensure incarcerated individuals have access to resource information, professional and natural supports, document assistance, and a link to the community that can eliminate and/or reduce barriers to social exclusion upon transition into the community. Written requests for assistance will be given to the Volunteer who will respond with the required information to facilitate the likelihood of success for reintegration.

Responsibilities

- Respond to assigned requests for assistance from individuals at Calgary Remand Centre
- Address immediate needs of Persons Served to decrease individual vulnerability to social exclusion (which may include contacting landlords, employers and family on an individuals' behalf to mitigate loss of housing, income, employment and family support)
- Provide information and resource support
- Follow-up with individuals as needed
- Work closely with Community Re-entry Support Program (CRESP) and the broader Adult Service Team

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- Data collection, casework documentation and evaluation.

Time Commitment

- To be able to volunteer any day Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 8 hours or more each week (this may be shared between 2 or more volunteers)
- A minimum one-year commitment to the program

Training

- Orientation and initial training are offered in addition to ongoing training and events with the purpose of allowing the volunteer the opportunity to understand some of the issues impacting the people we serve.