



*****JOB ANNOUNCEMENT*****

Deaf Peer Counselor

Position: Deaf Peer Counselor

Hours: Part-time or Full-time

Supervisor: Program Manager

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

Location: Berkeley

Who We Are

Founded in 1972 in Berkeley, California, the Center for Independent Living (The CIL) emerged from the Independent Living movement of the 1960s as a powerful force in helping people with disabilities achieve their independence. The CIL is the model for hundreds of Independent Living Centers throughout the U.S. and the world.

What We Do

The CIL directly serves about 1000 individuals each year. Services include peer counseling, assistive technology consultation and training, employment services, travel training, a residential access program that provides simple equipment allowing seniors and people with disabilities to stay in their homes, systems change advocacy, work and benefits counseling, and a Living Well with a Disability curriculum that helps seniors with aging related physical and mental disabilities remain productive, healthy and engaged. The CIL's Information and Referral staff provide specialized, in depth connections to resources to an additional 5000-6000 people a year.

Our Guiding Principles:

- Comprehensive programs most effectively meet the needs of people with disabilities
- People with disabilities are the best experts on their lives
- The strongest and most vibrant communities are those that include and embrace disability

Summary

TheCIL is seeking a Deaf Peer Counselor to provide independent living services to a diverse group of consumers within the larger Deaf community and at times within the larger disability community.

Essential Functions:

- Meet with persons with disabilities to assess needs and develop goals and a plan for achieving those goals (“Independent Living Plan”)
- Assist persons with disabilities navigate the PAS (Personal Assistant Services-Quick Match System)
- Assist persons with disabilities advocate around PAS and IHSS/Public Authority issues as it relates to their overall ISP/ILP.
- Provide core services to persons with disabilities. Core services include: independent living skills training, peer counseling, advocacy, personal assistant services, housing search, et al.
- Assistance and Information and Referral: Refer consumers to other The CIL staff as appropriate and needed. Work with other The CIL staff to ensure smooth service delivery.
- In collaboration with The CIL’s Assistive Technology department, stay current on the various types of assistive technology useful to Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard-of-hearing consumers.
- Maintain complete, accurate and up to date consumer records as outlined in The CIL standard operating procedures.
- Provide outreach so that area residents, community leaders, community organizations, churches, schools and businesses are aware of the services available.
- Plan and coordinate workshops in conjunction with other The CIL staff members as well as other agencies that serve the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard-of-hearing community members.
- Compile any required periodic reporting as requested by Program Manager.

- Communicate community needs to the Program Manager.
- Attend regular supervisory meetings with the Program Manager
- Attend regular staff meetings and trainings
- Other reasonable duties as assigned by Program Manager

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of American Sign Language, Deaf culture, Deaf rights.
- Knowledge of assistive technology commonly used by Deaf, hard-of-hearing, (e.g. TTY's, video relay, assistive listening systems, Braille and Speak)
- Life experience with Deafness and familiarity with other disability groups.
- Experience in working with people with disabilities.
- Experience in advocacy, peer counseling, and information and referral.
- Familiarity with minority Deaf cultures and other forms of sign language preferred.
- Bi-lingual/bi-cultural preferred.

Education and/or Experience:

BA and/or two (2) years of experience working with the Deaf community.

Physical Demands:

- LIGHT - Ability to exert up to 10 pounds of force occasionally and/or negligible amount of force frequently or constantly to lift, carry, push, pull or otherwise move objects.
- Must be able to remain in a stationary position 50% of the time.
- Typing on various keyboards and other office machines for long periods of time

Work Environment

This work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. The worker is not substantially exposed to adverse environmental conditions.

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Application Procedures:

Please visit <http://www.cilberkeley.org/about-us/cil-news/careers/>

Announcement may close at any time. Reply as soon as possible.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

If you need reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the People and Organizational Development Manager at (510) 841-4776 X3150 or email hr@cilberkeley.org. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by case basis.

CIL Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran. Persons with disabilities, veterans, women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

CIL is an E-Verify participating employer.

As part of the employment process at the Center for Independent Living, we will request that you complete financial disclosure forms. This information is required to be gathered from all new employees to comply with certain New Market Tax Credit program requirements, under which program the Center for Independent Living has benefited. All information submitted will be kept strictly confidential.