

**Dave Purchase Project  
Tacoma Needle Exchange**

**Community Health Outreach Worker – Outreach and Care Team Lead  
Hourly Rate \$22.00 - \$24.00 per Hour**

Dave Purchase Project is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to facilitate disease prevention. We are dedicated to the creation, expansion and continued existence of syringe exchange programs (SEPs) as a proven method of stopping the transmission of blood-borne pathogens in the injecting drug using community. We are also dedicated to empowering vulnerable populations by providing them with the knowledge and resources to enable them to make informed choices regarding their healthcare options.

Locally, we operate the Tacoma Needle Exchange (TNE) the first legally-sanctioned SEP in the United States. TNE provides Tacoma and Pierce County residents with access to harm reduction education and resources, care coordination, insurance enrollment, wound care clinics, HIV/HCV testing, and new safer injection supplies.

Nationally, our efforts are conducted through our Buyers Club (a.k.a., North American Syringe Exchange Network—NASEN), a harm reduction clearinghouse that leverages the economic power of SEPs throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands to ensure equitable access to low-cost harm reduction supplies, technical assistance, and science-based best practices for all SEPs regardless of their size or budgets.

Dave Purchase Project was created, and continues to operate, with the understanding that meeting people “where they are” is the most effective method of reducing the negative consequences associated with drug use. We provide all of our services free of charge in a non-judgmental manner. We encourage a collaborative environment where staff often work in teams and are expected to be proactive in their work. Staff are expected to actively participate in the improvement of service delivery and the development of programs.

**Position Summary:**

This position is responsible for providing leadership, support, and guidance for TNE’s outreach and care team staff and management of the day-to-day activities to ensure TNE participants receive harm reduction services in a welcoming, non-judgmental, and client-centered environment that provides them with options and opportunities to facilitate positive change in their lives and/or the lives of those they care for.

The Outreach and Care Team Lead will also be responsible for high tiered needs and care coordination including, but not limited to, housing and mental health referrals, insurance enrollment, and drug treatment enrollment.

Outreach and Care Team Lead is vital to ensuring that Tacoma Needle Exchange operates in a manner consistent with the principles of Harm Reduction and is responsible for modeling behavior which exemplifies an agency culture that values education, growth, and collaborative team-based management.

**Responsibilities:**

- Manage and develop the syringe access, outreach, care coordination, and other related low-threshold programs across multiple street and office-based sites.
- Develop, implement, and maintain program policies and procedures. Ensure that program services are effective and satisfying for program participants, consistent with the agency's harm reduction philosophy, and are delivered as outlined in contractual agreements with funders as well as Federal, State and local government regulations.
- Developing grant/funding proposals, budgets and project deliverables.
- Monitoring and reporting on grant-funded activities, maintain appropriate supply levels, etc.
- Supervise the Outreach and Care Team personnel; provide guidance, regular supervision, and ongoing training and skills development to improve knowledge and service delivery and ensure a positive experience for program participants and staff.
- Ensure appropriate coverage for all outreach activities.
- Identify potential recruitment locations. Engage in dialogue with participants and other community members to continually improve our services.
- Conduct and coordinate data entry to accurately capture and document measurable outcomes.
- Keep accurate, consistent, complete and intelligible records and data on all program activities and/ or participants.
- Ensure that data is entered on a weekly basis and submitted prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month.
- Work with other community organizations, participants, and staff to identify strategies and new community settings for overdose prevention trainings and naloxone distribution.

- Stay abreast of legislative, budgetary, policy, and regulatory issues at the local and national level that affect people who use drugs, sex workers, and people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Identify and participate in local, state, and national events that will increase the agency's activism profile and connection to the community and community stakeholders.
- Develop and maintain strategic relationships with community organizing groups, coalitions, and other community stakeholders.
- Maintain confidentiality as described in agency, federal, and state required policies.
- Participate in weekly management team meetings.
- Participate in weekly outreach meetings and other duties as assigned.

**Requirements and Experience:**

- Outreach and Care Team Lead is expected to have strong knowledge of Harm Reduction, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Modalities, Syringe Exchange Programs, HCV, and HIV.
- Significant work or personal life experience in the areas of substance use, sex work, and HIV/HCV prevention desired. Skills in the areas of safer injection, safer drug use techniques, and overdose prevention, HIV/HCV prevention and treatment desired.
- Knowledge of health and human service agencies and geography of Pierce County is preferred.
- Must be organized, self-motivated, and willing to work as a team. Must possess strong interpersonal and communication skills. Must be willing to solve problems as they arise in a hands-on fashion.
- Must possess an active interest in harm reduction, syringe exchange, and/or social justice as it pertains to individuals who use drugs or engage in sex work.
- Must be dedicated to advancing an agenda of equal rights and social justice for marginalized individuals, especially through participation in advocacy and national support.
- Knowledge of current community resources and how to access them on behalf of clients.
- Must have a valid driver's license, and a clean driving record.
- 2-3 years of supervisor experience preferred.
- Training in motivational interviewing.
- Mental Health First Aid.

- Successful background check.
- Must be willing to work outdoors in inclement weather.
- Bilingual (Spanish) desired.
- Tuberculosis screening no more than 30 days after hire. 3 days after hire if providing direct service to participants.
- Influenza vaccination required within 30 days of hire and annually thereafter.
- CPR/FIRST AID training required within 30 days of hire.
- HIV/AIDS 7-hour training within 30 days of hire.
- Annual trainings (online/in-person) as assigned by supervisor.
- Position is dependent upon funding availability.

**Reports to:** Executive Director

**Status:** Full-time, Non-Exempt