

**Dave Purchase Project
Tacoma Needle Exchange**

**Community Health Outreach Worker
Hourly Rate \$19.30 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 an array of street-based harm reduction services to people actively using drugs, including injection drug users (IDUs), sex workers, and people living with HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C. The Syringe Exchange Community Health Worker is responsible for conducting outreach activities, providing

participants with safer use/sex materials and educational interventions, driving the outreach van and providing leadership at our street-based sites. All activities are designed to educate and empower individuals to advocate for themselves and make self-identified changes in their lives.

Syringe Exchange Community Health workers are expected to have strong knowledge of Harm Reduction, Syringe Exchange Programs, HCV, and HIV. We operate with research-based strategies and ideas that reduce negative consequences associated with drug use. We are a part of a harm reduction movement for social justice, fueled by knowledge and respect for the rights of people who use drugs.

Responsibilities:

- Perform outreach activities and prevention education, outdoors in the parking lot of the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, 14th and G street and at the Tribal Outreach site as needed. The CHW will recruit and engage high-risk, hard to reach people who use drugs or engage in sex work, including injection drug users.
- Exchange syringes and other health-related resources and tools, and collect used syringes in accordance with public health regulations and PDAP policies.
- Provide safer sex and safer drug use interventions and promote safer sex and safer drug use outcomes.
- Provide risk assessments and discuss individualized risk reduction and harm reduction strategies. This includes safer injection practices; safer sex practices; overdose prevention and reversal; drug use management techniques; HIV, HCV and STI prevention; and other topics relevant to people who use drugs.
- Assist with the provision of overdose prevention trainings and distribution of Naloxone.
- Conduct condom distribution to predetermined community-based locations on a monthly basis. Submit demographics and activity records.
- Provide low-threshold referrals and connect participants with medical care, drug treatment, and other life-stabilizing services. Solicit and track feedback from participants to ensure that the agencies to which we refer are effective and treat participants with respect and in a manner appropriate to harm reduction programs.
- Model proper participant engagement and outreach for other staff, peers and volunteers. Provide guidance and mentorship as necessary.
- Keep accurate, consistent, complete, and intelligible records and data on all program activities and/ or participants; provide reports in a timely manner. Submit demographic and intervention reports on a daily basis.

- Conduct community outreach to foster good community relations, educate about program services and assess need. This includes but is not limited to attending/visiting community meetings, trainings, and encampments.
- Prepare, set up and dismantle program sites. Ensure the integrity of the sites, and maintain inventory of program supplies and educational materials.
- Complete vehicle maintenance which includes oil, tires, gas, and structural checks. Document and report any incidents or accidents within 24 hours of occurrence. Ensure that vehicles are kept clean, properly stocked and ready for service.
- Attend weekly outreach meetings, as well as required agency level trainings and events. Contribute to a team effort and other work as assigned.

Preferred Requirements and Experience:

- Bachelor Degree in Arts or Sciences
- Chemical Dependency professional Certification.
- Certification to conduct HIV testing, or a willingness to be trained.
- Knowledge of different SUD treatment modalities, including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- Must possess a valid driver's license, and a clean driving record.
- Completion of the following trainings upon hire:
 - Washington State Community Health Worker Competency Training;
 - Mental Health First Aid;
 - Motivational Interviewing;
 - If applicable, Peer Counseling Certification or enrollment within 1st year of hire;
 - Tuberculosis screening no more than 30 days after hire. Three days after hire if providing direct service to participants;
 - An influenza vaccination is required for direct service staff within 30 days of hire and annually thereafter;
 - CPR/FIRST AID training no more than 30 days after hire;
 - HIV/AIDS 7-hour training no more than 30 days after hire; and
 - Annual trainings (online/in-person) as assigned by supervisor.
- Must be organized, self-motivated, and willing to work as a team member. Must possess strong interpersonal and communication skills. Must be willing to solve problems as they arise in a hands-on fashion.
- We are specifically looking for candidates with 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.
- 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 and HCV prevention and treatment desired. Knowledge of health and human service agencies and geography of Pierce County is preferred.
- Must be willing to work outdoors in inclement weather.
- Bilingual (Spanish) desired.
- Position is dependent upon funding availability.

Reports to: Outreach Team Lead

Status: Full-Time, Non-exempt