



Love and Sex in the Age of Apps (LSAA) Peer Facilitator Volunteer

Reports to: Director, Organizational Development, Community & Culture
and Co-Facilitator, Clinical Social Worker

Location: 790 Bay Street, Toronto, ON

About Us

HQ is a centre of excellence in gay men's health, providing tailored mental health services, sexual health services, and community/social programming. It provides an accessible, safe, welcoming space for all cis men and trans people who are into guys regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender identify, sexual orientation, HIV status, socio-economic status, immigration status or ability. It provides comprehensive, holistic services that empower clients and promote their physical, sexual, mental, emotional, community and spiritual/social well-being.

At HQ, we work collaboratively with stakeholders and communities to promote health equity, through community engagement, and equitable access and participation in the centre's programs.

Find out more about us at: <https://hqtoronto.ca/>

About the Group

LSAA is an 8-week group program with structured exercises and discussions. Its content has been developed by a queer social worker in close collaboration with an Advisory Committee comprised of gay men over the age of 50. The intervention is intended to reduce vulnerability to loneliness, substance use and sexual vulnerability, as well as the transmission of HIV and other STBBIs through the development of peer networks. The goal is to support gbMSM participants to seek new sexual and romantic relationships, effectively negotiate risk, and create connections on their own terms.

The LSAA group will run from Tuesday September 5th to Tuesday October 24th from 6:30-8pm and is designed for participants who are 50+ years old, live in the GTA, and use (or are familiar with) mobile apps to connect with sexual, romantic, or dating partners. The group has a maximum capacity of 12 participants and will be led by 2 facilitators: one social worker under 50 (who developed the curriculum) and one volunteer who's 50+.

About the role

HQ is seeking individuals who are interested in volunteering as co-facilitator in the LSAA program. The facilitator must self-identify as a gay, bisexual, or queer guy; uses, or have used, dating apps; and be comfortable discussing potentially sensitive topics, including social isolation, sexual vulnerability, and sexualized substance use.

As a facilitator, you will be asked to be **available from Tuesday September 5th to Tuesday October 24th from 6:00pm to 8:30pm**, allowing some time for setup and debrief. You will receive a 3h facilitator training and orientation at HQ prior to the onset of the group and will attend virtual intake sessions for interested participants.

Responsibilities

- Attend a curriculum training session at HQ (June/July)
- Attend virtual intake sessions for interested participants with co-facilitator (June/July/Aug)
- Facilitate the LSAA group meeting on a weekly basis (Sept/Oct) for 8 weeks.
- Orient new members to the group
- Attend public events to promote your group and answer questions (based on interest and availability)
- Attend a peer volunteer support meeting monthly at HQ (not specific to LSAA)

Skills and Assets

- Ability to communicate in a positive, polite, and respectful manner.
- Knowledge about 2SLGBTQ+ community issues and resources
- Prior experience in group facilitation is ideal but not necessary.
- Openness to learning about mental Health and substance use.

BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING:

- Networking opportunities and personal development
- Increased knowledge and connection to the community and relevant resources
- Access to job opportunities and postings via email newsletters
- Reference Letter (after 30 hours of service across HQ programs)

How to Apply

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please use the position title as the subject line and attach your cover letter and resume as a single PDF/Word file in an e-mail to volunteer@hqtoronto.ca.

HQ has a commitment to diversity, thus volunteers with diverse backgrounds, the ability to speak multiple languages, and a passion for creating a welcoming experience for participants are encouraged to apply.