



BC People Living with HIV Stigma Index Peer Research Associate (Contractor Position) Job Description

POSTION: Peer Research Associate (PRA) (*4-6 Positions Available*)

STATUS: Contractor

TIME PERIOD: Over the course of 6 -8 months, each PRA will attend in-person training sessions and refreshers, conduct 25-35 interviews with participants, and participate in team meetings

LOCATION: There will be 4-6 PRAs positions - across BC with preference given to communities where there is a PAN member organization

REPORTS TO: Jaydee Cossar, PLDI & Stigma Index Project Manager, Pacific AIDS Network (PAN) Vancouver.

PAN is presently in the process of hiring four to six Peer Research Associates to assist us with a community-based research project, the [BC People Living with HIV Stigma Index](#), a dynamic research project born out of a community-identified need to turn the tide against persistent HIV stigma and discrimination. For the purposes of this opportunity, a Peer Research Associate (PRA) is a person living with HIV (PLHIV) who is hired and trained to support research tasks and who has experiences and identities in common with the study participants that they will recruit and interview. Peer Researchers are at the heart of the BC Stigma Index. They will represent Pacific AIDS Network across BC and increase the reach and engagement of people living with HIV in the study.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Linked to the international HIV Stigma Index initiative, the BC People Living with HIV Stigma Index will be the first ever community-based research (CBR) study in British Columbia to document experiences of stigma and discrimination from the perspective of people living with HIV. To learn more about the study visit: www.pacificaidsnetwork.org/stigma

This action-oriented study will translate community experiences into language decision makers can effectively use; build a shared agenda to influence programs, services and policies; and positively impact individuals involved. The HIV Stigma Index study is both a process of building partnerships and capacity, and an action-based research tool (building on a quantitative & qualitative questionnaire).

Designed by and for people living with HIV, and led by people living with HIV, this study will inform better evidence-based responses to HIV and related issues, and will empower participants to have an active voice in anti-stigma and discrimination reduction initiatives. The Index aims to conduct 200 interviews with people living with HIV from across the province. The objectives of this initiative are to:

- Broaden our understanding of HIV stigma and examine the potential resilience factors that may buffer/reduce negative effects on health & social wellbeing;
- Inform provincial/local strategies to reduce stigma and strengthen social networks; and Improve programs to better meet the needs of people living with HIV and increase access to and uptake of services.

About The Pacific AIDS Network

The Pacific AIDS Network (PAN) works collaboratively to build the capacity and skills of our 50+ member organizations and people with lived experience, to effectively address HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and related conditions. PAN does this by facilitating communication, providing opportunities for involvement in community-based research and the sharing of best practices, and providing professional/workforce development and leadership training to our members and people living with HIV/AIDS from throughout BC. PAN acts as a voice for the community-based response, undertaking collective action to influence public perceptions and policies.

POSITION SUMMARY

The BC PLHIV Stigma Index is now ready to hire 4 to 6 PRAs from across the province, who will join our existing research team. PRAs will interview study participants using a computer-based questionnaire. The questionnaire will include questions about interviewees' perceptions of the causes of stigma and discrimination, disclosure and confidentiality, access to work and services, and many more. PRAs will conduct interviews with HIV-positive peers from across BC, mostly in person, although some will be conducted by telephone and/or Skype.

All PRAs will receive and must complete a three-day PRA training. This will include intensive training in research methods, privacy and confidentiality, administering interviews, administering the Stigma Index questionnaire, computer literacy, participant support, and self-care. After training, PRAs will be responsible for administering 25 - 35 surveys with participants over a 6-8-month period. Further details of duties and responsibilities are described below.

HIV-positive individuals from traditionally marginalized or silenced communities are encouraged to apply, including lesbian, bi, queer and transgendered people; racialized and Indigenous communities; and other individuals from groups who have been historically under-represented in health research.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Attend a 2-3 day PRA training session in Vancouver on TBA (travel costs will be covered)
Attend additional on-line training and refresher sessions via webinar
- 3) Engage in self-learning before and after each training phase
- 4) Review and be familiar with training materials (e.g., the consent form and survey) before starting recruitment
- 5) Collaborate with the Research Team, Project Manager, the PRA team, community organizations and partners, and peer networks to recruit participants
- 6) Assist with screening potential participants to confirm study eligibility
- 7) Assist with setting up interviews for participants

- 8) Obtain voluntary, informed consent and interview peers living with HIV in your region (Note: number of questionnaires each PRA will complete will vary by region and will range between 25-35 questionnaires)
- 9) Administer the Stigma Index questionnaire in person or by telephone using a computer (laptops will be provided)
- 11) Administer the participant honorarium and complete necessary paperwork
- 12) Participate in regular PRA Team meeting to discuss interview-related issues and to support fellow PRAs
- 13) Connect with the Stigma Index Project manager as needed
- 14) Return all completed study materials to the Stigma Index Project manager (e.g., consent forms, honorarium receipts)
- 15) Act as a BC PLHIV Stigma Index representative within your region
- 16) Participate in data analysis and knowledge mobilization activities

QUALIFICATIONS

- 1) A person living with HIV;
- 2) Past experience and/or interest in research
- 3) Past experience and/or interest in working with HIV positive peers
- 4) Compassion and understanding towards issues related to diversity, inequality, stigma and discrimination, and the needs of people living with HIV
- 5) Passionate about learning
- 6) Passionate about your community
- 7) Ability to work as part of a diverse team
- 8) Effective oral and written communication skills
- 9) Average (or above) literacy skills (e.g., reading, comprehension, writing)
- 10) Excellent time management and organizational skills
- 11) Basic computer skills (e.g., comfortable using a computer, typing, sending emails, and accessing the internet);
- 12) Flexibility in working hours;
- 13) Fluency in English.

COMPENSATION

- 1) Travel, accommodation, child care and food during the PRA training sessions in Vancouver will be covered.
- 2) Compensation for training sessions and team meetings will be provided.
- 3) Laptops or access to secure desktop computers will be provided (to be returned at the end of the study)
- 4) Compensation will be provided at a rate of \$75 per questionnaire. This amount includes time required to complete the interview and for other duties and responsibilities outlined above (e.g., participant recruitment, administrative tasks, participating in bi-weekly/or where necessary Team Meetings).

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: All interested applicants are asked to complete an application form for consideration. Due to limited administrative resources, to promote efficiency and to make things easier for our Selection Committee members, we ask that applications be submitted electronically. However we will accept emailed or faxed applications.

[Online Application](#)

[PRA Application Stigma Index PDF](#)

[PRA Application Stigma Index Word](#)

***If emailing** Applications should be saved and sent in the following format: “Lastname_Stigma” – example, “Cossar_Stigma”. If scanning facilities are available, the application can be filled in, scanned and sent as a PDF. However, it can also be simply worked on as a word document, and then emailed to jaydee@pacificaidnetwork.org

Deadline for applications is August 29 @ 4pm 2016.

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The Pacific AIDS Network would like to thank, in advance, all applicants who take the time to submit an application for PRA positions. We are grateful for your interest in this study. The PLHIV Stigma Index PRA hiring team includes representatives from research and peers from the HIV community. The hiring team will consider every application carefully, with a goal of building a strong and diverse PRA team, representative of persons living with HIV across BC. Only successful applicants will be notified regarding whether or not they have been selected for an interview.