



Advocate Volunteer Program

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer with the Advocate Department at Crisis Services! We are the Designated Rape Crisis Center for Erie County as well as an approved Non-Residential Domestic Violence Program. We offer several services to any individual in the county who is affected by the trauma of domestic or family violence, elder abuse, rape, and sexual assault.

We provide a 40-hour training to applicants four times a year. This program provides a NYS Department of Health approved curriculum meant to educate applicants on all aspects of working with survivors. Upon completion of this training, applicants will be prepared to provide one-on-one crisis intervention to survivors. The topics in this curriculum include but are not limited to: the dynamics of domestic violence, elder abuse, rape and sexual assault; the medical and legal rights of a survivor, and supportive counseling skills.

NOTE: We also welcome interns seeking school credit in various fields of learning. If interested, please contact the Training Specialist to determine if this program is the right fit.

Requirements for acceptance into training include:

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
- Applicants must provide personal transportation to and from field assignments.
- Applicants must pass a background and DMV check.
- Applicants must commit to at least 6 months of service, 24 hours each month, providing direct client crisis intervention in the hospital setting.

2023 Training Cohorts

There are four training sessions per year. Each session has a maximum capacity of 12 new team members. Below are the start dates for each session and the related application deadlines. Please be aware each session is filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. Applicants are welcome to apply after the deadline as we may still reach out if there is room in the upcoming session, but this is not guaranteed. If the session is full, we will contact you to advise your application will be considered for the next session with openings.

January 17th:

Early Applicant Pool Deadline: November 25th
Final Applicant Pool Deadline: December 12th

August 15th:

Early Applicant Pool Deadline: June 30th
Final Applicant Pool Deadline: July 24th

April 18th:

Early Applicant Pool Deadline: February 24th
Final Applicant Pool Deadline: March 10th

November 1st:

Early Applicant Pool Deadline: September 22nd
Final Applicant Pool Deadline: October 9th

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