40-Hour Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocacy Training

About the Training

Health Imperatives’ Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocacy training will prepare volunteers, interns, and staff to assist survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, as well as their families and support systems. The training covers the psychosocial, emotional, medical, and legal aspects of sexual assault and other related issues. This course is intended to prepare trainees to provide services such as crisis intervention, counseling, accompaniment, and advocacy services to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. It is a prerequisite for anyone interested in providing direct service to clients under the Violence Intervention and Prevention programs, however completion of this training does not guarantee acceptance as a volunteer. This training adheres to the requirements of MGL Ch233 §20J and meets the MA state requirement for all domestic violence and sexual assault advocates and allows those working with survivors of violence to maintain “privileged communication,” confidential communication between clients and providers. Our training is offered two- three times a year.

Requirements

To be accepted into this training, you must complete the following steps:
1. Submit a Volunteer Application
2. Submit a CORI/SORI check
3. Schedule and attend an interview prior to the training

Other requirements:
- Must be 18+ years old
- Must be able to make a 1-year commitment to volunteering
- Individuals interested in taking our training or volunteering are required to have had at least 1 year since their last involvement with domestic or sexual violence, or services with Health Imperatives’ VIP programs
- For individuals seeking professional training who do not plan on volunteering or working for Health Imperatives after the training, the cost is $250 (payable by check or card.)

Topics Covered

- Welcome to Health Imperatives
- Intro to Domestic Violence
- Anti-Oppression
- Intro to Interpersonal Violence
- Safety Planning with survivors
- Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault
- Working with LGBTQIA+ Survivors
- Child and Adolescent Sexual Abuse Privacy Rights and Confidentiality
- Self-Care for Advocates
- Intro to Medical Advocacy & Medical Advocacy Skills
- Mental Health and Trauma-Informed Care
- Healthy Sexuality
- Working with Immigrants and Refugees
- Suicide Prevention
- Campus Sexual Assault
- Legal Advocacy
Volunteer Roles:

Penelope’s Place Domestic Violence Shelter: Volunteers provide non-clinical programming, childcare, group or one-on-one activities for families in the shelter. Administrative assistance and hotline shifts also available on an as-needed basis.

Outreach and Prevention: Volunteers may be involved in co-facilitating prevention workshops, run tabling events, assisting with technical elements of outreach and prevention campaigns or events.

Hotline: Volunteers may provide emotional support, information, resources and referrals to individuals calling Health Imperatives’ domestic and sexual violence hotline during office shifts (M-F, 9am – 5pm).

Survivor Speakers’ Bureau (SSB): The SSB’s purpose is to support survivors of sexual or domestic violence in constructing a healing narrative of their story as a tool for inspiring social change. Health Imperatives will provide training and speaking opportunities to members, as well as ongoing support throughout the process. (40-hour training not required; SSB training is required.)

Medical Advocacy: Advocates provide emotional support, information regarding legal and medical options, and referrals to survivors requesting support in of the several hospitals we respond to in Plymouth County. (Additional 1 hour of training and shadowing required.)

T.E.A.M. Work: Peer mentors in our T.E.A.M. Work Mentoring program support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault to achieve their goals around financial empowerment, employment, education, housing, and health & wellness. (Additional 2 hour training required.)

Court Advocacy: Volunteers may provide administrative assistance to staff at SAFEPLAN, a program located in Brockton District Court, and serve as an on-call advocate. (Additional 30 hour SAFEPLAN training and shadowing required.)

Fundraising: Volunteers support our yearly and monthly awareness-raising and fundraising efforts by providing essential support during events at college campuses and at local organizations.

Please contact volunteer@healthimperatives.org or 508-588-2045 ext. 5008 with any questions!