



## Job Opportunity: Mental Health Policy Fellow

Spring 2023

### Overview:

The Texas Suicide Prevention Collaborative seeks to hire a Mental Health Policy Fellow to support TSPC's policy work and advocacy efforts leading up to, during, and following the 88th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature. The fellow will focus on policy issues related to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention in under-resourced Texas communities and support the engagement and empowerment of local suicide prevention councils in policy and advocacy to ensure systems, services, and supports are responsive and appropriate to the diverse and unique needs of Texas communities. The projects and activities of the fellow will support local, regional, statewide, and federal policy and advocacy efforts aimed at addressing systemic barriers to suicide prevention and community wellbeing.

This two-year policy fellowship is intended to prepare the individual to engage in effective mental health and substance use policy, generating meaningful systems changes. The policy fellow will assist TSPC leadership, staff, local councils, and other stakeholders with activities designed to generate mental health policies that reduce the prevalence of suicide in Texas and improve the mental health and wellness of Texans. This fellowship offers mentorship from colleagues with extensive experience in Texas policy, mental health, and suicide prevention and is expected to last until June 30, 2024.

### Position Type:

Located in Austin, Texas, this position is an entry-level position with a strong focus on professional development for individuals obtaining a relevant graduate degree in the last 18 months. This time limited grant funded position is made possible by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health and the continuation of the position past the 2-year duration of grant funding is not guaranteed. The position will report to TSPC Executive Director Lisa Sullivan and will be mentored by Dr. Lynda Frost. The fellow will participate in the Hogg Foundation's Mental Health Policy Academy.

### Key Responsibilities:

- Develop and maintain relationships with TSPC members, partners, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Engage and collaborate on statewide policy and advocacy focused on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.
- Collaborate with other policy organizations to identify and activate mutually beneficial opportunities to promote shared policy priorities.
- Participate in – and as appropriate, lead – state level committees and policy work groups related to

suicide prevention.

- Research and write analyses and track and analyze relevant legislation before, during, and after the 2023 Texas legislative session.
- Educate stakeholders, including policymakers, on suicide prevention needs of under-resourced Texas communities and opportunities for effective behavioral health policy.
- Work with other TSPC policy staff to keep TSPC local councils informed and engaged in TSPC policy work.
- Nurture new local suicide prevention coalitions in several underserved rural communities in Texas.
- Identify opportunities to include diverse perspectives and voices in the work of TSPC.
- Participate in the Hogg Mental Health Policy Academy and other training and professional development as determined appropriate to the position.
- Participate in staff meetings and other TSPC activities as appropriate.

#### Required Qualifications:

- Completion of a graduate degree in social work, public policy, psychology, public health, law or other related program within the last 18 months;
- Clear commitment to furthering diversity, equity, and inclusion in Texas policy processes and outcomes;
- Ability to foster and maintain positive relationships with diverse groups;
- Ability to work well with a team and individually;
- Ability to multi-task and manage time appropriately to reach goals;
- Ability to work in a remote office environment, and travel locally for regular in-person meetings with supervisor and mentor as well as with partners and stakeholders;
- Demonstrated commitment to TSPC's values and a strong interest in suicide prevention in Texas.

#### Preferred Qualifications:

- Lived experience with the impact of a suicide attempt or loss;
- Certification as a peer support specialist or family partner;
- Perspectives from and understanding of historically excluded groups;
- Experience with policy research and advocacy, community engagement, and data analysis;

- Strong skills in communications, public speaking, analytical/critical thinking skills.

Salary Range: \$48,000 - \$50,000

Application Instructions: To apply, please send a resume, cover letter, writing sample, and list of three references to [admin@texassuicideprevention.org](mailto:admin@texassuicideprevention.org) write “Mental Health Policy Fellow” in the subject of email. The proposed start date of the position is May 15, 2023. Applicants will be screened on a rolling basis and interviews will be scheduled as qualified applicants are identified.

#### About TSPC:

TSPC strives to make Texas suicide safe. We are the leading advocate for community-based suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention in Texas and are recognized nationally for our expertise and innovation in bringing evidence-based protocols and data to communities and individuals in a readily applicable format. Our extensive network of partner organizations, local coalitions, and training participants provides a ready platform for advocating for improved behavioral health policies in Texas and elevating the voices of people most impacted by suicide.

TSPC is an equal employment opportunity employer and strongly encourages diverse candidates to apply. TSPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex (including pregnancy), gender, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, medical condition including genetic characteristics, mental or physical disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity (including transgender status), weight, height, linguistic characteristics (such as accent and limited English proficiency, where not substantially job-related), citizenship status, or any other basis prohibited by law.