



Promoting safe, healthy & resilient communities

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February 29, 2016

Dear Potential Volunteer,

Thank you for the interest you have expressed in Empower Yolo and our volunteer training program. Training is held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays starting **Saturday, April 24, 2017** and ending **Wednesday, May 24, 2017**. Saturdays are from 9am-5pm and Mondays/Wednesdays are from 5:30pm-10pm. Training days are as followed\*: 4/24, 4/26, 4/29, 5/1, 5/3, 5/6, 5/8, 5/10, 5/13, 5/15, 5/17, 5/20, 5/22, 5/24. Training will be held at Empower Yolo's Board Room located at 175 Walnut Street in Woodland. **All training dates are mandatory.** \*Dates and times subject to change.

### **Application process**

After we receive your completed application, it will be reviewed by the Volunteer Coordinator. If your application is accepted, we will invite you to an interview. Invitation to the training program will be issued after a successful interview and background check.

### **Minimum commitment**

- One 4-hour shift a week
- Attending monthly in-service meetings
- Serving as a volunteer for one year

### **Training Fee**

There is a **\$60 materials fee** to cover the cost of training material for those who commit to serving as an Empower Yolo volunteer for one year. If this is a financial hardship arrangements can be made. Volunteers will be asked to give both a \$60 and \$50 check. The \$60 check will be cashed at the beginning of the training. If the volunteer does not follow through and volunteer, the \$50 check will be cashed by the third month of volunteership. There is a \$110 professional development fee for those who take the course and do not volunteer with Empower Yolo (this includes the \$60 materials fee).

Please note that space is limited and spots are not guaranteed, **applications are due April 19, 2017**. Feel free to contact Empower Yolo with any questions concerning the application process, training, or the role of volunteers within our agency. We look forward to hearing from you. We value and cherish our volunteers as we could not provide our services without their dedication and service.

Sincerely,  
Yee Xiong  
Volunteer and Community Education Coordinator  
[yeex@empoweryolo.org](mailto:yeex@empoweryolo.org)  
530-665-5320

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Volunteer Signature

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Date

## Agency Description

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

*Empower Yolo's mission is to promote safe, healthy, and resilient communities.*

### **Empower Yolo's purpose is to provide:**

- (a) Twenty-four hour crisis intervention, emergency shelter, confidential counseling, training, legal assistance, and other services for individuals and families persons affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and child abuse;
- (b) Resource centers for community services to improve the health, social, educational and economic outcomes of Yolo County residents; and
- (c) Community outreach and educational programs about available resources to promote health, stability, and self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

All services are to be provided in a manner that appreciates, enhances, and utilizes the strengths of Empower Yolo's clients and honors their cultural practices and traditions.

## **Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Counselor Training Qualifications**

Because of the nature and intensity of the training program, applicants must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- Applicants must have an interest in assisting sexual assault and domestic violence survivors and significant others.
- Applicants must be 18 years of age.
- Sexual assault and domestic violence survivors must be emotionally ready to assist other survivors.
- Past or present perpetrators of sexual or physical abuse and/or any violent crime are not eligible to participate in Peer Counselor Training.
- Applicants must complete a fingerprint criminal background check.
- Applicants with a history of chemical dependency must have been clean and sober for at least two years prior to training.
- Applicants must be able to attend **all** training sessions.
- Volunteer applicants must be able to attend mandatory monthly in-service meetings.
- Volunteer applicants must commit to 12 months of volunteer service

## **Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Peer Counselor Position Description**

### **POSITION DESCRIPTIONS:**

Volunteers serve the agency in a wide variety of ways as Peer Counselors including:

**Telephone Hotline** – Provide peer counseling, crisis intervention, shelter screening, and information/referrals to clients accessing the crisis line. Bilingual (in any language) encouraged.

**Youth Education/Prevention** – Assist our education team with education and prevention in the classroom

**Children’s Program Volunteer** – Facilitate playgroups and recreational activities, positive interaction and creative play for children residing in the confidential battered women’s shelter. This program may include assistance with sorting children’s items at the shelter, making files and other miscellaneous task related program.

**Community Information Tables** –Staff prevention and education tables at community health fairs, farmer’s markets, and other events

**Latina Outreach Advocate** – Provide presentations, outreach activities and/or peer counseling to bilingual and monolingual Spanish speaking clients

**Russian Outreach Advocate** – Provide presentations, outreach activities and/or peer counseling to bilingual and monolingual Russian speaking clients

**Asian Pacific Islander Outreach Advocate** – Provide presentations, outreach activities and/or peer counseling to bilingual and monolingual speaking clients

**Legal Advocacy/Accompaniment** – Assist clients in filing for a domestic violence restraining order, accompany a survivor to court, work closely with judges in Yolo County. Volunteers must start on the crisis line prior to working in the Legal Department.

**Marriage and Family Therapist Intern/Associate Social Worker** – Provide therapeutic interventions and case management; Masters level or post-graduate students only. Clinical supervision is available.

**\*Administrative** – Volunteer opportunities for clerical work are abundant and include data input, assisting with general mailings, and assembling packets.

**\*Special Events** – Plan and participate in events such as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month events. \*This position does not require the peer counseling certification



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## Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Peer Counselor Position Description (con't)

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Must obtain a Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Crisis Counselor Certificate by attending a minimum of 65 hours of comprehensive training on all aspects of rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, domestic violence, effects on children, crisis intervention, resource and referral counseling, hotline response, hospital, law enforcement and court procedures in accordance with California Penal Code 13835.10. This training meets the standards set forth in the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18294 and Penal Code 13837 through curriculum approved by California Emergency Management Agency offered by Empower Yolo. All volunteers of Empower Yolo must become Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Peer Counselors. Additionally, all Sexual Assault Crisis Counselors are required to attend mandatory monthly in-service meetings. There is a \$60 fee that will help cover the costs of training material and manuals. Scholarships are available if need is demonstrated. There is a \$110 professional development course fee for those who do not wish to make a commitment to volunteering with Empower Yolo.

### **SUPERVISION:**

Work under supervision by the Director of Crisis Support Services, or other director depending on the program, following established agency policies and procedures. Participate in a cooperative evaluation process.

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

Ability to communicate with compassion and empathy. Volunteers must be patient, nonjudgmental and able to demonstrate sensitivity to the cultural/ethnic diversity of the client base. Must maintain client confidentiality at all times. Please see *Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Counselor Training Qualifications* for a complete list of qualifications.

Empower Yolo staff reserves the right to refuse enrollment to anyone whom they feel is not suitable to the program. Participation in training does not guarantee certification as a sexual assault and domestic violence counselor, nor does it guarantee a volunteer assignment.

I have read and understand the qualifications listed above.

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Volunteer Signature

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Date



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## Empower Yolo Volunteer Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Over 18? \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: (     )                      Secondary Phone: (     )

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a student, please list your year and your expected graduation date.

Ethnicity (for grant reporting purposes only) \_\_\_\_\_

Position(s) Interested In: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about Empower Yolo? \_\_\_\_\_

Check box if you are interested in being contacted to help at Empower Yolo special events.

The following questions are state mandated as part of the **screening process** for all volunteer applicants. These questions may also help you to determine if Empower Yolo will afford you the type of volunteer opportunity you are seeking. **An in-person interview will also be conducted. Please attach your resume to this application.**

1.) Please tell us how you became interested in volunteering for Empower Yolo.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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2.) Please tell us about your experiences working with individuals of different cultures, ethnic backgrounds, religion, sexual orientation, and/or lifestyles.

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3.) Please tell us about any experiences you have had doing peer counseling.

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4.) What is your experience with domestic violence or sexual assault?

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5.) Tell us about a challenging situation and how you dealt with it.

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6.) Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a felony or any other crime? If yes, please explain.

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7.) Are you fluent in any other languages (besides English)? Please tell us your level of verbal and written proficiency.

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8.) Please tell us about other special skills, training, and/or experience that you have to offer as a volunteer for the agency.

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9. Would you be willing to make a 12-month commitment to Empower Yolo? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Will you consent to a fingerprint background check? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Could you attend mandatory monthly in-service meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Can you commit to attending ALL training session? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Are you going to request financial assistance to cover the cost of materials (\$60)? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Do you have any special needs our agency should be aware of to accommodate your needs?

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15. List five words that describe you:

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17. What do you feel are your strengths and weaknesses in doing this work? What skills do you bring and what concerns do you anticipate?

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## References

Please list three people who are not related to you and have known you for at least one year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Empower Yolo. It is the dedication of our volunteers which safeguards and furthers our mission of providing hope and ending violence in our community. We look forward to reviewing your application.

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Your signature

Date

Please return application and your resume to:

Attn: Yee Xiong  
Volunteer and Community Education Coordinator  
Empower Yolo  
175 Walnut Street  
Woodland, CA 95695

Or

[Yee@empoweryolo.org](mailto:Yee@empoweryolo.org)