

Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Empower Yolo and our volunteer training program! Our Spring 2024 Peer Counselor Training (PCT) will be a 6-week hybrid training with virtual and in-person presentations. Completion of this 72-hour training will certify participants as Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence counselors.

The training will be virtual on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30PM-9:30 PM and in-person on Saturdays from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM in our Woodland office. Please note *all training dates and topics are mandatory*. Training dates are as follows:

May 11, 15, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30

June 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15

***All training dates are subject to change.***

### **Application Process:**

Submit your completed application and resume to the Community Engagement Specialist at [arielim@empoweryolo.org](mailto:arielim@empoweryolo.org). Applications submitted without a resume will be considered incomplete. If your application is accepted, you will be invited to attend an interview and orientation. Invitation to the training program will only be issued after a successful interview. *Space is limited*, spots are not guaranteed.

**Applications are due Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### **Minimum Volunteer Expectations:**

- At least a 12-month internship
- Maintain 12 hours of continuing education a year
- Volunteer on a consistent weekly basis (~4hrs/week)
- Attend monthly volunteer meetings (~2 hrs/month)
- All changes in shift schedules must be discussed and reported to the Community Engagement Specialist
- Mandatory completion of volunteer timesheets
- Must be able to pass a criminal background check

### **Training Fee:**

There is a \$300 professional development fee for those who take the course but do not plan to volunteer with Empower Yolo. For volunteers, there is a \$50 fee to cover the cost of materials. Arrangements can be made if this poses a financial hardship. All volunteers are required to give a \$200 deposit. This *deposit will only be cashed* if the volunteer fails to complete training or does not follow through on their 4 hours/week commitment.

Sincerely,  
Ariel Inocencio Madrigal  
Community Engagement Specialist

## **Agency Description:**

Mission statement: *To promote safe, healthy, and resilient communities.*

Empower Yolo's purpose is to provide:

- a) 24-hour crisis intervention, emergency shelter, confidential counseling, training, legal assistance, and other services for individuals and families 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.
- 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 qualification. Applicants must be able to check ALL the following:*

- Applicants must be 18 years of age.
- Applicants must be able to attend all training sessions.
- Applicants must complete an FBI/DOJ criminal background check.
- Volunteers must attend monthly volunteer meetings and maintain yearly continuing education.
- Volunteer applicants must commit to 12 months of volunteer service.
- Applicants must have an interest in assisting survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking or other violent crimes and their significant others.
- Sexual assault and domestic violence counselors must be emotionally ready to assist survivors.
- Past or present perpetrators of sexual or physical abuse and/or any violent crime are not eligible to participate in the Peer Counselor Training.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & JOB DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Crisis 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 prevention education team with presentations to K-12 graders.

**Children’s Program Volunteer** – Facilitate playgroups and recreational activities, positive interaction and creative play for children residing in the confidential safehouse. This may include assistance with sorting children’s items, crisis intervention and follow ups, soliciting material donations, and general assistance.

**Client Navigator Volunteer** – Assist at resource centers with food distributions, organizing clothing closet, and maintaining the overall function of resource center(s). May include client intakes, resource & referrals, data entry, phone intake, and general assistance.

**Community Outreach Advocate** – Staff resource tables at events throughout Yolo County, provide presentations, outreach activities, etc. Provide peer-counseling as needed to participants.

**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 have at least 3- 6 months of experience 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, Master’s level or postgraduate students only. Clinical supervision is available.

**\*Special Events Volunteer** – Plan and participate in events such as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month events.

**\*Food Distribution Assistance** – Support weekly food distribution in Knights Landing, Davis, or Yolo. Must be reliable, able to lift 50+ pounds, able to bend up and down and prepare food bags for community members.

**Board Member-** The Board’s role is to support the mission of our organization by providing leadership, oversight, guidance, and fundraising support. Members must attend a monthly meeting, serve on a subcommittee, and seek ways to contribute positively to the advancement of Empower Yolo’s mission.

*\*This position does not require the Peer Counselor Certification.*

Volunteers have no limit to the number of internships they can participate in within our agency.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** Must obtain a Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Crisis Counselor Certificate by attending a minimum of 72.75 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 the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) offered by Empower Yolo.

**SUPERVISION:** *Work under supervision, by the Associate Director, 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 cultural humility to our client base. **Must always maintain client confidentiality.** Please see *Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Counselor Training Qualifications* for a complete list of qualifications.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the qualifications listed above. I understand the training requirements and am able to meet these requirements.

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Applicant Signature

Date





9. Which areas are you best suited for or most interested in volunteering? (Check all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24/7 Crisis Hotline  | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Education/Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children’s Program   | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal Advocacy/Accompaniment                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Client Navigator           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage and Family Therapist Intern/Associate Social Worker |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events/Programs                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please explain: _____                                 |   |

If accepted...

- |     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| YES | NO | Are you able to attend all the training dates?   |
| YES | NO | Will you consent to a fingerprint DOJ/FBI background check?  |
| YES | NO | Will you be able to make at least a 12-month commitment?<br>*If not, please submit a \$300 professional development payment. |
| YES | NO | Will you commit to attending monthly volunteer meetings?   |
| YES | NO | Will you commit to maintaining your yearly on-going education hours?   |
| YES | NO | Will you commit to a drug-free workplace?  |
| YES | NO | Will you request financial assistance to cover the cost of materials?  |

Thank you again 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 completed application.

*I, the Applicant, certify all information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that completing an application does not guarantee me an interview, invitation to the training program and/or a volunteer position at Empower Yolo. Empower Yolo staff reserves the right to refuse and terminate enrollment to anyone whom they feel is not suitable or no longer suitable for the peer counselor training and/or volunteer program.*

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*Applicant Signature*

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*Date*

## References

Please list three people who are not related to you and have known you for at least 6 months. They may include peers (one peer reference only), professional colleagues, supervisors, or professional educators.

Reference 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reference 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reference 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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