



Johns Hopkins University – Seeking Peer Mentors for PEERS Study

Johns Hopkins University's Department of Geriatric Psychiatry is seeking Peer Mentors to provide remote peer support to older adults with depressive symptoms. Peer Mentors operate as part of a research study designed to assess the impact of peer support on decreasing depression.

To be eligible to apply you must:

- Be at least 50 years of age
- Have experienced depression in the past
- Be available for virtual training and meetings that take place during weekdays
- Be comfortable with the possibility of making home visits once COVID19 restrictions have been lifted

Peer Mentors receive a stipend after they have completed training, and are compensated for each documented phone meeting with the senior(s) with whom they are matched, and for each Supervision Meeting they attend.

Important Skills to Have:

- Awareness of and sensitivity to the perspectives and perceptions of mentees, peers, and supervisors.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to effectively influence, persuade or coach others into taking alternative courses of action.
- Ability to employ a client-centered approach to assist mentees in identifying, prioritizing, and redefining (if necessary) treatment plan goals.
- Comfort interacting with a diverse group of older adults and facing new and possibly unfamiliar circumstances.
- Good time management and prioritizing skills, and an attention to detail in completing study-related forms and questionnaires.
- Appreciation of and respect for other cultures and diversity, and an understanding of how culture influences and impacts behavioral health and services.

The selection process includes:

- A screening by phone to ensure eligibility requirements are met
- An interview with the study's Principal Investigator and Peer Mentor Supervisors
- An observed role-play exercise with a current Peer Mentor, designed to assess fundamental conversational and engagement skills
- A criminal background check once the position has been offered and accepted

If you are interested in becoming a Peer Mentor, please contact Trina V. Brooks, LMSW, at 410-955-0512, or tbrook30@jhmi.edu.