POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Making the Shift (MtS) is a Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab with a mandate to contribute to the transformation of how we respond to youth homelessness through research and knowledge mobilization specific to youth homelessness prevention and housing stabilization. MtS is a federally funded Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE) and is co-led by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness at York University and A Way Home Canada. Its ultimate effort is to shift system responses to youth homelessness from emergency-based solutions to homelessness prevention in the areas specific to research, community planning, and relevant policies and practices.

Housing First for Youth (e.g., Gaetz, 2017, 2021) is an evidence-informed approach to support homeless young people attain housing, achieve housing stability, and enhance their quality of life through supports for mental health, substance use, and additional social and health needs for recovery and well-being. Acquiring program implementation and practice evidence for Housing First and youth programs is a key part of establishing the evidence base for this approach, which requires an articulation of several professional issues on how programs are adopted, implemented, and come to function effectively and sustainably.

We are conducting a study aiming to fill these knowledge gaps that will investigate the experiences of organization leaders and service delivery team leads involved in the adoption and operations of Housing First and youth programs in Canada and Europe. To assist with this research project, we are looking for a passionate and qualified candidate to take up a part-time Research Assistant (RA) position. Working alongside the Senior Researcher (Dr. Ashley Ward), the RA will carry out key project tasks. These project tasks include:

- Developing effective relationships with internal and external project stakeholders, including research team members as well as research participants, project funders, and other external consultants to the project;
- Meeting with the research team on a biweekly basis to review progress and discuss project-related issues;
- Scheduling and carrying out qualitative interviews with service organization leaders and service delivery team leads of Housing First and youth programs;
• Maintaining a qualitative interview database and conducting data cleaning and quality checking;
• Conducting qualitative data analysis (thematic analysis);
• Supporting the writing of findings from the qualitative analyses;
• Carrying out the preparation of the study’s KMb products, including practitioner materials, manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication, and presentations for professional meetings and conferences; and,
• Completing any additional tasks for related research projects as assigned by the Senior Researcher.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS:

• Graduate degree from a social science discipline (Child and Youth Care, Psychology, Social Work) or related equivalent experience;
• Experience with qualitative data collection, management, and analysis;
• Knowledge of homelessness and social justice issues, particularly how homelessness affects youth populations (e.g., youth leaving care; youth exiting corrections; Indigenous youth);
• Training/experience in community-based research processes and research ethics; experience with project management an asset;
• Excellent spoken and written communication skills (English in particular; French language communication skills are an asset);
• Excellent organizational, planning, and coordination skills; and,
• Strong ability to work independently in the online environment, as well as part of a team.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Your complete application package must include a cover letter, resume, and the names and contact information of three professional references. Please email your package to Dr. Ashley Ward at wardash@yorku.ca, ensure that “MtS HF4Y Research Assistant” is quoted in the subject line of your email.

Please reach out if you have any questions regarding the posting.

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. We are committed to Employment Equity and Diversity and encourage applications from all qualified candidates.