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Practical Support Network Prospective Volunteer Packet

Thank you for your interest in the All-Options Practical Support Network (PSN). Before you apply, we want to let you know what to expect as a prospective volunteer. This packet contains everything you need to know about the PSN. Feel free to email Evelyn Smith, State Programs Manager, at evelyn@all-options.org if you have any questions!

Who We Are:

Mission Statement

All-Options uses direct service and social change strategies to promote unconditional, judgment-free support for people in all of their decisions, feelings, and experiences with pregnancy, parenting, abortion, and adoption. We recognize that these issues are complex, but one thing is certain: Everyone deserves to have all options!

Vision Statement

All-Options imagines a future where all people are supported in making the reproductive decisions that are best for their lives, without coercion or limitation, and where the dignity of lived experiences is affirmed and honored.

What We Do:

What is the All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC)?

Located in Bloomington, IN, the All-Options PRC is a secular, client-centered organization where everyone is welcome. Whether someone is in need of a pregnancy test, peer counseling, diapers services, abortion funding or practical support, or all of the above, All-Options is here for all Hoosiers.

What is the Hoosier Abortion Fund?

The Hoosier Abortion Fund (HAF) provides financial assistance to Hoosiers seeking abortion care in Indiana and those traveling outside of the state for abortion care, as well as pregnant people in other states traveling to Indiana for an abortion. It is the first and only community-based, statewide abortion fund in Indiana. HAF is a program of All-Options, housed under the All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center in Bloomington, IN.

What does Practical Support have to do with Abortion?

Beyond the cost of the actual medical procedure, there are many barriers to abortion access; this is true nationwide, but things are especially challenging in hostile states like Indiana. As it stands, there are only seven abortion clinics in Indiana, three of which are clustered in the center of the state. The cost of an abortion in Indiana is between \$600-\$900. There are laws that prevent doctors from offering abortion services to pregnant people after 13 weeks and 6 days into their pregnancies, forcing folks who are further along to leave the state for abortion



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care.

Indiana

also has an 18-hour waiting period between initially confirming a pregnancy and providing the abortion procedure, forcing people to make two trips to the clinic. All of these factors combine to create burdensome obstacles for folks seeking abortion care. People often need to make arrangements for transportation, childcare, lodging, and lost wages from missing at least two days of work, in addition to securing funding for their abortion procedure. Practical support provides hands-on assistance to address these logistical barriers to abortion care.

Practical support can look like providing a ride for someone to their appointment at the clinic, sitting with them in the waiting room to provide emotional support, helping folks arrange lodging and childcare accommodations, and providing material support to help offset the cost of care and lost wages (diapers, gas cards, post-abortion care packages). These are just a few of the options; practical support may look different from community to community based on their needs. Given that Indiana does not have a robust public transportation system, we currently focus on providing rides and transportation support to Hoosier Abortion Fund callers.

What do Practical Support Network Volunteers Do?

All Practical Support Network Volunteers are expected to do the following:

- Successfully complete the All-Options Practical Support Network training.
- Engage and support Hoosier Abortion Fund clients in an open-hearted, judgment-free way.
- Provide practical support services (e.g. rides and clinic accompaniment) at least 6-12 times per year but no more than 3 times per month.
- Attend quarterly meetings organized by the State Programs Manager.
- Assist in local recruitment efforts for Practical Support Network volunteers.
- Make at least a 12 month commitment to volunteering with All-Options.
- Give All-Options feedback on what is working well for you and what you would like to do differently. We want to know the best way to utilize the skills and resources you have to offer. At any point, you can expand or limit the ways you provide Practical Support.

Ready to join us?

Apply to become a PSN volunteer!

You can apply to volunteer with the Practical Support Network [here](#). Interested applicants must complete an interview process which includes a phone interview, reference check, background check, and Bureau of Motor Vehicles record check. Becoming a Practical Support Network volunteer is a competitive process and we may not be able to accept everyone who applies.

Volunteer applications must be in by Wednesday, November 3rd to be considered for our November 2021 training.

Explanation of Screening Process

All volunteers with All-Options are vetted and selected through our screening process.

All-Options volunteers work closely and independently with clients from vulnerable populations. To protect our clients, we ask all staff and volunteers working directly in a one-on-one capacity



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with clients
to consent to a criminal background check. This check includes the following: criminal history reference searches for felony and misdemeanor convictions at the county and federal levels of every jurisdiction where volunteers currently reside, or where they have resided during the past 7 years; and sex offender registry searches at the county and federal levels in every jurisdiction where they currently reside or have resided.

We recognize that criminal background checks rely upon state-sanctioned notions of legality and criminality, and are inequitable because of racism and racial bias in arrests, convictions, and sentencing. We value the participation of formerly incarcerated people at All-Options, and having a criminal record will not necessarily preclude you from becoming a Practical Support Network volunteer. **Offenses such as a DUI/DWI within the past 3 years, sex crimes, and crimes against children will disqualify prospective volunteers from working with us.** If you have questions or concerns about your record and how it may affect your work with All-Options, please don't hesitate to reach out.

These background checks will also require a binary identification for gender. All-Options recognizes that gender identification occurs along a continuum. However, the agencies and programs that record information have a long way to go, so prospective volunteers should enter the gender that appears on their current legal identification, such as a driver's license. That said, we always acknowledge volunteers and clients by their stated gender and pronouns.

All volunteers must complete the [All-Options Volunteer Application](#), a phone interview, and a background check that includes a BMV check (both conducted through Verified Volunteers). Because of the nature of their work, Practical Support Network volunteers are required to participate in ongoing screening of their driving record, and will be required to provide proof of a valid driver's license and car insurance that includes at least \$100,000 in liability coverage. We will keep a copy of each volunteer's driver's license and certificate of personal insurance. While we can't guarantee that something won't go wrong -- accidents happen -- All-Options will stand with our volunteers as long as they have followed our guidelines (no DUI, dangerous driving, etc).

How are you managing risks associated with COVID-19?

Giving rides to clients requires a certain amount of close contact in an enclosed space, so we encourage volunteers to make decisions about participation with that in mind. **We require all PSN volunteers to be vaccinated;** part of our intake for PSN clients will involve asking about vaccination status, and also setting expectations that everyone will wear masks while sharing cars. Volunteers can choose to take or decline ride requests based on any factors (vaccination status, time availability, etc.) with no judgment. If a client refuses to take precautions such as masking, volunteers are empowered to decline service. All-Options will provide PPE (masks, hand sanitizer, etc.) to PSN volunteers to use and share with clients.

Is there a special training I should attend?



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Accepted Practical Support Network volunteers must attend a virtual, two-session training (each 90 minutes long) prior to providing any support to HAF clients. **Day 1 of the training will**

take place on Wednesday, 11/10 (7:30-9pm ET) and Day 2 will take place on Wednesday, 11/17 (7:30-9pm ET). The training will introduce volunteers to All-Options and our approach, provide an overview of the abortion procedure and laws surrounding it in Indiana, and guide folks in interacting with HAF and PSN clients in an open-hearted, judgment-free way.

Got Questions? Email Evelyn Smith, State Programs Manager, at evelyn@all-options.org!