



### **Lead Facilitator for Online Peer Support Group**

The Lead Facilitator for a peer support group online is a **contract** position with the Autism Society of Colorado.

#### **Job Summary:**

As a Lead Facilitator for online autism support groups, you will play a pivotal role in creating a healthy, open, and supportive virtual environment for individuals and families affected by autism. You will be responsible for organizing and leading online support group sessions, fostering a sense of community, providing guidance, and facilitating discussions to help participants navigate the unique challenges associated with autism spectrum disorders. Your role is essential in promoting emotional well-being, information sharing, and mutual support among group members. The Lead Facilitator requires dedication, compassion, and the ability to create a supportive online community for individuals and families affected by autism. It is a rewarding role that can make a meaningful impact on the lives of those you serve.

#### **Primary Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Plan and lead an agenda, content, and discussions around autism-related topics.
- Develop, implement, and lead activities to address the specific needs of online groups.
- Stay updated on current autism-related research, therapies, and resources. Offer guidance on accessing services, therapies, and educational resources.
- Write up and maintain reports and records of attendance and session topics.
- Gather feedback from participants to improve support group effectiveness.
- Work with the co-facilitator to lead discussions on various autism-related topics. Share facilitation duties with the co-facilitator, taking turns leading sessions if necessary.
- Communicate and collaborate with the ASC program manager for online groups.
- Create an inclusive and respectful atmosphere for all participants by fostering a sense of belonging and trust among group members.
- Encourage open and respectful communication and address conflicts to ensure an open space for all participants. Promote peer-to-peer support and networking.
- Attend **mandatory** ASC quarterly meetings. Optional to attend events (i.e. Annual Walk, Socials, Community Partner Events, etc.) throughout the year.

#### **Requirements for the Position:**

1. Must have a computer, able to utilize Zoom and Google Suite, and have consistent access to reliable internet.
2. Knowledge and understanding of autism spectrum disorders and available autism-related resources and services.
3. Experience in facilitating support groups, preferably online.
4. Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
5. Empathetic and patient with excellent active listening skills.
6. Ability to handle sensitive and emotional discussions with care. Sensitivity to cultural and individual differences.
7. Must support and follow all support group guidelines and procedures.
8. Can have a bachelor's degree in psychology, social work, counseling, or a related field/ a certification in counseling or related (optional but beneficial).