

Council Delegate Application
Guiding Council of Western Mass
Updated 02/2017

Summary: This is an application to become a Council Delegate for the Guiding Council of Western Massachusetts (GCOW). GCOW existed before the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community (RLC) and was instrumental in its development and visioning process. Upon funding of the Western Mass RLC, GCOW became the RLC's advisory board and is responsible for looking at the 'big picture' of Western Mass RLC growth, development, successes and challenges. Topics covered in GCOW may include work on new funding and/or project opportunities, review of mission and defining principles, policy and procedure review and development and so on.

Make-up of GCOW: While RLC workers may attend GCOW meetings to provide technical assistance and share information, GCOW is made up of individuals living and/or working in the larger Western Mass area who identify as having lived experience with a mental health diagnosis, trauma and/or extreme states. Though every meeting is open to anyone with lived experience who wishes to attend, the main body of GCOW is made up of Council Delegates who have committed to attending monthly meetings on a regular basis. It is the goal of GCOW to have at least two (and up to four) Council Delegates from each county within Western Mass.

Job Responsibilities: Council Delegates are asked to:

- Make a one-year commitment (with the option to re-new) beginning in September of each year.
- Attend monthly meetings held at the RLC's Holyoke Center (187 High Street, Suite 303) every first Monday from 1 to 3pm. (In cases where the first Monday is a holiday, the meeting will automatically move to the 2nd Monday of that month.)
- Be listed in writing (on the RLC website, etc.) as a Council Delegate
- Share responsibility for checking the GCOW voicemail (supplied by the RLC), which provides the community with an opportunity to leave feedback for GCOW regarding specific or general issues pertaining to the RLC
- Be an active participant and provide input on agenda topics at each meeting
- Represent the RLC in a positive manner

Job Qualifications: Council Delegates are expected to:

- Identify as having lived experience with a mental health diagnosis, extreme states and/or trauma (Strong allies to the recovery movement may also be considered)
- Live and/or work in the Western Mass region
- Be available to attend monthly meetings (it is understood that each delegate may occasionally need to miss a meeting, but the understood goal should be to miss two or less meetings per year)
- Be willing to represent not only their own voice, but the voice of others from their county as they receive feedback
- Be able to demonstrate a commitment to the positive growth and development of the RLC community as a whole
- Bilingual (ASL/English or Spanish/English) a plus!

Compensation: This is primarily a volunteer position. However, compensation will be offered for travel expenses to those who are driving or paying bus fares as follows:

- Berkshire County - \$40.00
- Franklin County - \$30.00
- Hampden County - \$10.00
- Hampshire County - \$15.00
- Orange/Athol - \$35.00
- Bus – \$10.00 (or actual expense if higher than \$10.00)

Light refreshments will also be available at each meeting.

Instructions: Please complete this application form to indicate your interest in joining the Guiding Council of Western Mass (GCOW) as a Council Delegate. This form should be returned to Sera at 187 High Street, Suite 303, Holyoke, MA 01040 or by fax to (413) 536-5466. You may also e-mail this information to sera@westernmassrlc.org. If you have any questions, you may call Sera at (413) 539-5941 ext. 203. Please print clearly. You may use the back of the application for additional space as needed.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Please summarize the reasons you are interested in joining GCOW: _____

What skills or experience do you possess that would make you a good Council Delegate?

Please initial the following items to indicate understanding:

I am willing to begin attending in September of 2016 (or the next meeting date following this application process) and make a one year commitment which would extend until August of 2017.*

I understand that this is a volunteer position (though travel compensation will be provided), but that my role and regular attendance is the most important aspect of my commitment to GCOW.

I am able to commit to attending regular, monthly meetings.

I understand that my role will include representing my voice as well as the voice of my local community while still keeping the 'big picture' of the whole RLC community in mind

** If you are completing this application after September of 2016, the assumption will be that you are committing to attend until August of 2017 at which point you will be asked if you are willing to re-commit to a full year.*