

Outreach Midwife

Community Midwives of Ottawa / The Ottawa Hospital

Community Midwives of Ottawa is looking for a general registrant to join the ORACLE team. ORACLE is a collaborative care program, with care of medically and socially complex clients shared between the midwifery team and the maternal-fetal medicine team at The Ottawa Hospital. We deliver care within an outreach model, and work collaboratively with many community organizations including outreach nursing, mental health and addiction services, community health centres, and child protection. We are a close-knit, supportive team who enjoy working together and value collaboration.

This work is quite different than conventional midwifery practice. It is less time at births, more time at meetings; less time in clinic, more time providing clinical care in the community. It is more time on the phone and more time in transit. There is a very high volume of postpartum visits, which can sometimes be in two places if the newborn is with kin, rather than with parents. It is less predictable than what you are used to in the daytime and more predictable at night. You will spend lots of time trying to contact people, looking for people, standing outside an apartment building waiting for somebody to let you in and re-scheduling. There are some very sad parts that come alongside the joyful parts. It is also an opportunity to do challenging, meaningful work with some very engaging and resilient people.

This midwife will have skills in motivational interviewing and experience navigating housing, social assistance and child protection. Outreach work includes episodic care in the shelters, the detention centre, in your vehicle, or at a coffee shop. It is working with very interesting and inspiring people experiencing homelessness, addiction, violence and mental illness. We are looking for somebody who is philosophically aligned with a health equity and harm reduction approach. We also work closely with multiple community partners. This is work for somebody who enjoys building interdisciplinary relationships and is an excellent negotiator.

We specifically encourage midwives who identify as IBPOC, queer or genderqueer to apply. Fluency in French is a considerable asset. Good standing with the College of Midwives is essential. Five years of midwifery experience is preferred, although three years will be considered in the context of additional qualifications or experience. The equivalent of two years of experience working with relevant client populations is essential for all candidates.

Please forward résumés with a cover letter to Liz Fraser at efraser@ottawamidwives.ca