



“Being a victim of abuse while serving time was frightening, isolating, and filled with despair. Thanks to RESPOND, I no longer felt alone; they stood by me every step of the way, offering support until my release.”

RESPOND has been working to end domestic violence and homelessness for survivors in our communities for 50 years. By joining our team as a Domestic Violence Counselor, you will assist folks involved in the criminal justice system experiencing domestic violence find safety and life free of abuse. The Domestic Violence Counselor will share time in three programs:

- [The SAFER program](#)- working with detained and incarcerated individuals in Suffolk County House of Corrections. (40% of time/ 2 days on-site at Suffolk County House of Corrections)
- [The LEP program](#)- working with criminal justice professionals (police, probations, district attorney’s office, etc.) and other community-based providers to examine, prevent and intervene in high-risk domestic violence situations. (40% of time/ 2 days on-site at area courts, RESPOND Community Service Center (CSC).
- [Community Intervention and Education program](#)- providing trauma informed domestic violence prevention services to the community-at-large with a caseload load of clients from all RESPOND programs. (20% of time/ 1 day on-site at RESPOND CSC and other community facilities.

RESPOND’s three tenets focus on our life changing **work**, our diverse **team**, and our commitment to **learning**.

The Domestic Violence Counselor’s **Work**:

Each day will be different as you work in a fast-paced community service center answering our intake and assessment, line, educate the community on the signs of domestic violence and/or work with community partners helping people in crisis find immediate solutions for safety. Your day may include:

- Teaching a class on domestic violence basics, boundaries, or healthy expression at the Suffolk County House of Corrections
- Work with domestic violence survivors in a 1:1 setting providing crisis intervention, counseling, and a plan for immediate and long-term safety.
- Provide follow up and offer services to all victims of domestic violence who were recently involved with local law enforcement.
- Accompany survivors to court, aid clients with obtaining restraining orders, and emotional support.
- Actively participate in multidisciplinary teams inclusive of local law enforcement, district attorney’s office, and other criminal justice entities to collaborate on high-risk situations.
- Helping a teammate out! Support a colleague or program in need of an extra set of hands.

The **team** you will be working with:

- Provide a wide variety of safety services to those experiencing all forms of domestic violence.
- A wide variety of community members, local schools, and diverse programs
- Staffers who are committed to social services, social justice and the belief that housing and safety are human and fundamental rights.

What you will **learn**, model, or teach:

- How various partners can work together to keep survivors safe and offenders accountable in the communities served.
- Trauma informed services are the cornerstone of RESPOND services. Program participants are treated with dignity and respect.
- Extensive training—RESPOND will provide at least 25 hours of domestic violence related training in the orientation period, and on-going training and continuous professional development opportunities.
- Upward mobility—if you are looking for a career and not just a job, you are in the right place!

Your Knowledge, Skills, and Attributes:

- At least one year of case management, civilian advocacy or relevant experience working with individuals and families.
- Ability to work in loud, high stress environments with people who have experienced domestic violence.
- Comfortable in law enforcement environments like police stations, house of corrections and courts
- Access to a personal vehicle, possession of a valid driver's license, and a willingness to transport program participants in RESPOND's service area. This position will travel daily.
- Practice cultural sensitivity and ability to relate to persons of diverse backgrounds, such as the LGBTQ/T community and individuals with histories of substance abuse and/or mental health and different ethnic and social backgrounds.
- Bachelor's degree or High School Diploma/HiSET or GED with 4 years' equivalent work experience strongly preferred.
- Must have or be willing to obtain the 25-hr Domestic Violence Training Certification and CJIS.

RESPOND Compensation and Benefits include:

- Hourly pay of \$23.93
- Ample accrued paid time off: 3 weeks' vacation, 2 personal days, 12 sick days and 12 holidays
- 401k match of up to 3%
- Excellent health and dental insurance that is 80% paid by employer.
- Sign-on Bonus of \$500 at the five-month anniversary
- Retention Bonus equaling to **one week's pay** at the one-year anniversary.
- No-cost 25k Life insurance policy.
- Pre-tax flexible spending and transportation accounts
- Additional vision, life, and illness policies available at cost to employees

Interested? Let us know why you want to join the team as a Domestic Violence Counselor by sending a cover letter and resume to Desiree Headley at (hr at respondinc dot org) with the job title in the subject line.

RESPOND, Inc. is committed to building a culturally diverse staff that represents the populations we serve. RESPOND, Inc. celebrates diverse life experience and is proud to be an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer (EEO/AA). Candidates who are bilingual/bicultural, of color, Native/Indigenous, with disabilities, who identify as LGBTQIA+, or who are members of other marginalized groups are strongly encouraged to apply.