

Dear Potential Applicant:

In collaboration with the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network, and the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community, the Technical Support Team of the Hearing Voices Research & Development Fund is planning to train up to 25 people to become co-facilitators for new Hearing Voices peer-support groups. We'll also be creating a local network to support the ongoing work and growth of these groups and to facilitate broad community dialogue around voice hearing. This application is intended for people interested in participating in a "Hearing Voices Group Facilitator" Training. Each of our trainers is an experienced facilitator and all are voice hearers.

Hearing Voices groups originated in Europe and there are now hundreds of groups in 30 countries around the world. Hearing Voices groups do not pathologize voices, visions or other unusual experiences. Instead, group members explore these phenomena in an environment of mutual support and curiosity. They offer people who hear voices, see visions or have other unusual experiences the opportunity to share their experience and explore new ways of coping, understanding their experiences and getting support.

Currently there are a growing number of Hearing Voices Groups in the United States, and our vision includes both supporting and bolstering the number of groups in the US and increasing access to these useful groups. We hope that you will join us in bringing this vision to reality!

Sincerely,

The Technical Support Team
Hearing Voices Research & Development Fund
Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health Care

See Below for Further Training Details:

TRAINERS TO INCLUDE: **Caroline White**, Training Coordinator of the Hearing Voices Research and Development Project and experienced HVN USA trainer and group facilitator; **Marty Hadge**, experienced HVN trainer and group facilitator, plus additional guest trainer from the United Kingdom via Skype .

TRAINING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATION: Dates for the training are scheduled for Monday, April 3rd through Wednesday, April 5th 2017. Each day will run from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Reading homework may be assigned ahead of time and/or during the class. The training will be held in the Atlanta metropolitan area at a location TBA. **Participation in all 3 sessions is required to complete the training.**

TRAINING PREREQUISITES: This training is primarily intended for people who have some basic facilitation skills and/or training, though not absolutely required so long as it is understood that the training is not designed to provide these basic skills. Some awareness of and investment in the Hearing Voices Movement and approach is required, so please be sure you've checked out www.hearingvoicesusa.org and/or other sources to become familiar with the basics and are still interested in applying! You should already be facilitating or have an active interest in starting an HVN group.

COST: There is no cost for this training; however, costs for travel, room & board are not covered by this grant.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO: This training is open to people who identify as voice hearers, allies, friends and family, clinicians, peer workers and more. If you participate, you should expect that the group will include a mixture of people in varied roles. This training is designed to challenge and encourage creative thought about different belief systems, and so openness and genuine curiosity is a must! It is not intended as a 'train the trainer' model.

Applications are due *February 20th 2017*

Application for Hearing Voices Groups Facilitator Training

Due *February 24th, 2017*

There has already been a high degree of interest in the training and spaces are limited. As a result, we are asking people to apply to do the training and we have set areas of priority which we will use when selecting participants. We will prioritize applicants who:

- Are willing and able to attend all three sessions
- Hear voices and who have a genuine interest in co-facilitating a group
- Have support and/or resources needed to start a group in their area
- Have some prior facilitation training and/or experience

Contact Information (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Agency or organization where you work (if applicable):

Application (Please feel free to attach separate sheets if necessary)

1. Please indicate which of the following applies to you:

- a. I am a voice hearer who is interested in co-facilitating a group
- b. I work in a peer role in a mental health setting and am interested in starting a group
- c. I work in a traditional role in a mental health setting and would like to start a group there
- d. Other, please specify:

If you have selected 'b' or 'c,' please enclose a letter of support from your supervisor or other administrator that confirms their interest in setting up a group at your organization.

Some of the values that make Hearing Voices groups so powerful are respect for privacy and creating spaces where people feel open to explore new frameworks for their experience. We have found that healing spaces are more inclined to develop when clinical note-taking or reporting on conversations outside the group are kept to a minimum. The letter should speak to your organization's ability to create such a group environment and to be transparent to any limitations of confidentiality.

2. I am able to attend all three training sessions to be held on **Monday THROUGH Wednesday from 9:30am to 4:30pm** on the following dates: April 3, 4, and 5.

Yes No (Circle one. If no, I will not be able to attend _____)

3. Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand the following:

- I understand that I need to participate fully during all three days to successfully complete the training.
- I understand that while this training will offer me techniques and skills to use as an HVN facilitator, it will be up to me and/or my own organization or group to find financial and other support needed to start a group.
- I understand that training participants will likely include a mixture of people who hear voices, allies, people working in peer roles and people in clinical roles.
- I understand that this training focuses on facilitation skills and perspectives directly pertaining to the Hearing Voices Network approach, rather than basic group facilitation techniques.
- I understand that if I write illegibly or if my answers are only a few words long, my application will likely not be considered. (We do not need essays, but we do need at least a few sentences in order to get a sense of where you're coming from!)

(Signature)

(Date)

4. In a short statement, please describe why you are interested in doing this training:

