



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK

**Office for Violence Prevention
and Victim Assistance**

Division of Student Affairs

**Office for Violence Prevention
and Victim Assistance**

Rutgers-The State University
of New Jersey
3 Bartlett Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

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Dear Crisis Response Volunteer Applicant:

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance would like to thank you for your interest in a volunteer position as a VPVA Crisis Response Advocate. We welcome all those who are interested in dedicating their time and energy for this worthwhile service. We would like to take this opportunity to detail the qualifications and characteristics which applicants should possess, as well as explain the program and process for application.

The Advocates provide evening and weekend service to sexual assault, domestic violence victims and any victim of crime. Typically, the Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD), Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Hospital, Residence Life or our Answering Service will refer victims to Advocates for phone support. Advocates will assist the victim in a variety of ways, ultimately providing support and information to help them make informed decisions on the options that are available to them.

To accomplish the goals and objectives of this program, it is necessary for volunteers to possess minimum qualifications. The following is a list of these minimum standards for volunteers:

- 18 years of age or older
- Access to a car
- No criminal history
- No prior history as a defendant in a violence related matter
- Ability to communicate well with others
- Good listener
- Sensitivity to victim's feelings and concerns
- Desire to help others
- Available to participate in initial and ongoing training
- Have an active cell phone

Bilingual individuals in any language are encouraged to participate in order to assist those victims who have special language and cultural needs or issues.

Applicants will be required to participate in a 60+ hour initial training course. This course will be provided asynchronously on a Canvas course with live debriefs via Zoom once a week. There is also one mandatory in-person all day training held at



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RUPD. After successful completion of the training and a meeting with the instructors for a 15-minute exit interview, volunteers will become officially become advocates and will enter on-call rotation. The volunteers will be contacted via a cell phone.

Attached to this email is an application for consideration to be a VPVA Crisis Response Advocate. Please complete the application and Release of Information Form and return it to the **Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance** attention **Rebecca Vazquez, Director of VPVA** at 3 Bartlett Street, CAC, or scan and email to Rebecca.vazquez@rutgers.edu. After your application is received it will be reviewed for acceptance, and a criminal and judicial background check will be conducted. You may be asked to schedule a personal interview. Successful applicants will be informed of the time and place for the training.

Once again, the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance thanks you for your interest in our Advocate program. We recognize the importance of the community in our endeavor to provide enhanced services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Without the assistance of community volunteers, it would not be possible to operate this essential program.

Should you have any questions, or need further information, please feel free to contact me by calling 848-932-1181 or emailing me at Rebecca.vazquez@rutgers.edu

Sincerely,

Rebecca Vazquez

Rebecca Vazquez, PhD, LPC, NCC
Director | VPVA New Brunswick