Volunteer Program FAQ

Who can apply to volunteer with Project Sanctuary?
Individuals who are passionate about supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence and who are committed to providing compassionate, survivor-centered services are encouraged to apply.

Is prior experience in domestic or sexual violence advocacy or crisis intervention required?
No. All required knowledge and skills are taught during the training. We welcome volunteers from a wide range of professional, educational, and lived-experience backgrounds.

What will volunteers be doing after training?
Volunteers primarily support our two crisis lines, typically staffed by volunteers from **9:30 PM to 8:30 AM**, providing compassionate, trauma-informed support to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, including crisis intervention, safety planning, information about available resources, and assistance with emergency safe housing arrangements when appropriate. Volunteers may also receive calls from law enforcement agencies or hospitals requesting advocacy services for survivors. In these situations, volunteers provide support and assistance over the phone, coordinate with appropriate Project Sanctuary staff when necessary, and help connect survivors with available services.

What other possible volunteer roles are available?
Volunteer roles may include but are not limited to: crisis intervention, crisis counseling, overnight in-person crisis response, crisis line support, tabling and outreach, and other survivor support services. Placement is based on organizational needs, volunteer interest, and successful completion of training.

Is there an age requirement to volunteer?
Yes. All volunteers must be 18 years of age or older at the time of application.

Can I volunteer if I have previously received Project Sanctuary services?
Individuals are eligible to apply to volunteer **one year after they are no longer seeking or receiving services from Project Sanctuary**. This one-year waiting period helps ensure ethical service delivery, confidentiality, and appropriate boundaries.

Is training required?
Yes. All volunteers that interact with Project Sanctuary clients are required to complete our 80-hour State Certified Crisis Counselor training This training prepares volunteers to provide safe, effective, and trauma-informed support.

What is the time commitment after training?
Volunteers are asked to commit to a **minimum of one year of service** following the completion of training. This commitment helps ensure continuity of care for survivors and allows volunteers to fully build and apply the skills learned during training. Specific scheduling expectations and service requirements will be discussed during the application and interview process.

Are background checks required?
Yes. To ensure the safety of survivors, staff, and volunteers, all applicants must successfully complete required background checks prior to participating in training or providing services. This includes a review of the public sex offender registry, a Child Abuse Index review, and Live Scan fingerprinting, in accordance with state and program requirements.

Is this a good opportunity for students or individuals who work full-time?
Yes! Many of our volunteers balance work, school, or other commitments. While the training and volunteer roles require significant commitment, we strive to offer shift options that are as accessible as possible.

Is the training free, or is there a fee?
The 80-hour State Certified Crisis Counselor training is free of charge, and any required training materials provided as part of the training are also included at no cost to participants. Please note that other agencies or organizations requesting this training may be subject to a small fee.

Will I receive a certificate?
Yes! Volunteers who successfully complete the training will receive a State Certified Crisis Counselor certificate.

Is there additional training required after the 80-hour training?
Yes. After completing the 80-hour State Certified Crisis Counselor training, staff and volunteers are required to complete **8 hours of continuing education each year** to maintain their certification. Ongoing training helps ensure volunteers stay informed, supported, and aligned with best practices in trauma-informed, survivor-centered advocacy. Continuing education opportunities will be provided or approved by Project Sanctuary.

How do I apply?
Application details, deadlines, and next steps will be posted on our website. Selected applicants will be contacted for interviews prior to acceptance into the training.