PERSAD Center

Founded in 1972, PERSAD is the nation’s second oldest licensed counseling center serving the LGBTQ community and people living with HIV. PERSAD was founded at a time when the mental health community response to someone who identified as LGBTQ was to try to change them and correct them as if it were the problem. PERSAD was created as an affirming counseling center to help LGBTQ people cope with the social discrimination they experienced and to receive professional counseling services without prejudice about their identity. In the early 1980’s PERSAD added serving the HIV/AIDS communities to our mission because of the devastating impact that HIV had on the gay population of that time. PERSAD continues to serve the HIV+ individual regardless of their sexual or gender orientation.

PERSAD CENTER offers a limited number of internships each year for Masters level candidates who are enrolled in social work or professional counseling graduate programs. We prefer candidates who have previous human service-related experience and who also desire to serve the LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS communities. Our internship program focuses on developing clinical competence in general mental health and drug and alcohol treatment as well as competence in working with LGBTQ populations. The internship program offers numerous training opportunities, weekly supervision, and a supportive environment in which to learn and grow.

An internship at PERSAD CENTER also requires significant investment both in terms of time and commitment to our mission. The internship program runs from May to May and requires a 12 month commitment. Each intern is expected to:

- Dedicate 20 hours a week; 10-12 of those hours are in direct contact with clients
- Work at least one evening per week
- Attend clinical staff meetings, group and individual supervision, and trainings