

LOV Inc. Social Worker-Disability Inclusion Specialist (Bridge Builder) Job Description

LOV Inc. is a small nonprofit organization based in Madison, Wisconsin with a growing hub in the Milwaukee area. Our mission is to unite people with developmental disabilities and their families to engage and build their best lives. Our staff is dedicated and focused on doing the best work we can each day. We seek a motivated, fun-loving, caring, and enthusiastic member to join our team! We are hiring a Social Worker-Disability Inclusion Specialist, known internally as a Bridge Builder, to partner with individuals with a variety of disabilities as they build a future by exploring their interests and dreams. This position is based in the greater Milwaukee area.

What is the Bridge Builder Project?

The Bridge Builder Project is an initiative of LOV Inc., a family-led, grassroots organization for individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities work one-on-one with Bridge Builder Project staff, known as Bridge Builders. Bridge Builders are paid staff who support individuals to identify personal interests, set goals, and make lasting, natural connections in community settings. Bridge Builder members are individuals with disabilities.

The Bridge Builder will work to:

- Discover short- and long-term goals of Bridge Builder members and creatively challenge and engage them to work toward those goals
- Facilitate Bridge Builder members to discover and build authentic relationships
- Support individuals to find valued roles in their community
- Assist Bridge Builder members to develop skills necessary for a full and more independent life

Overall duties of the Bridge Builder will include:

- Build relationships with Bridge Builder members, their families, and close supporters;
 skillfully balance the members' goals for themselves with their family members' goals and dreams for them
- Support members and their teams to discover and set goals and then create an action plan to achieve them; track information about progress toward goals using a variety of tools, including a database
- Work with Bridge Builder members to build skills that will increase their independence at home, work, or in the community
- Actively seek out community connections (clubs, game groups, service groups, gyms) with and for Bridge Builder members; cultivate and maintain community partnerships to facilitate inclusion (such as The Milwaukee Maker Space, Game Universe, and public libraries)
- Facilitate authentic relationships between members and others in the community
- Facilitate group meetings to build community among Bridge Builder members

Goals that Members work on:

- Joining a club based on an interest or passion, such as Dungeons & Dragons
- Discovering a place of belonging in the art world, tech world, horse world, etc.
- Finding a community to contribute to through civic engagement or volunteering
- Creating and maintaining a personal calendar and schedule
- Building and maintaining friendships inside the LOV community and in the broader community as well
- Independent living skills, such as grocery shopping, transportation, and budgeting money

Reports to: LOV Inc. Bridge Builder Milwaukee Lead

Salary: Starting at \$40,000 annually, includes health benefits and paid time off; full-time position

Working conditions:

- Varied work hours, including frequent evenings and occasional weekends, based on the needs of members and community organizations
- Meeting with members in their homes which requires tolerance of varied lifestyle choices and beliefs
- Frequently transporting members in personal vehicle
- Moderate physical activity for up to 60 minutes
- Varied community interaction based on Bridge Builder members' goals; may include interaction with values-based community groups, including spiritual/faith communities.

Required qualifications:

- Must have a vehicle, driver's license, and car insurance
- Able to pass a WI Caregiver Background Check
- Strong interpersonal communication skills—written and verbal—and ability to work with people of a variety of backgrounds
- Comfort with a variety of computer programs and software or willingness to learn
- At least two years of experience working with individuals with disabilities

LOV Inc. is an equal-opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

Employees of LOV Inc. work with individuals with a variety of disabilities from various backgrounds across race, social class, and language. This candidate will build rapport with individuals of color, individuals from low-income families, individuals who are culturally and linguistically diverse, and individuals who are LGBTQIA+ to ensure they live a self-determined and person-centered life.