



Eli's Place Residential Treatment and Transition Centre

Residence Advisor - Position Profile

Eli's Place Residential Treatment and Transition Centre ("Eli's Place") exists because Ontario's mental health system, built around short stays, institutional settings and crisis response, cannot currently offer young adults with serious mental illness what they actually need — sustained recovery, resilience and the life skills to move forward. We are building something different. Canada's first long-term residential therapeutic community, where time, meaningful work and a sense of belonging are the conditions for recovery.



Eli's Place will provide long-term residential care for young adults aged 18 to 35 living with serious mental illness, on a 600-acre farm and conservation property north of Guelph. Guests live and work together as a therapeutic community, with individualized clinical care built alongside real, structured work in horticulture, conservation and land stewardship.

The Residence Advisor is a founding member of the Guest services team and the day-to-day presence at the centre of a Guest's life at Eli's Place. This is where the therapeutic community is lived out hour by hour, in shared meals, daily routines and the ordinary rhythms of a home. Residence Advisors keep that environment safe, steady and welcoming around the clock, walking alongside Guests through daily life as they rebuild confidence and independence.

Eli's Place is pre-operational and on track to open in fall 2026. Founded over a decade ago by a family with lived experience of serious mental illness, the organization has spent years developing its model, securing its location and building the board, partnerships and funding foundation needed to launch. The Residence Advisor will join the team as it prepares to welcome its first Guests.



If this is the kind of work you have been looking for, we want to hear from you.

About Eli's Place

Eli's Place is a non-profit organization providing long-term residential care for young adults aged 18 to 35 living with serious mental illness. The program is not of a fixed duration, but responds to the therapeutic needs of each individual Guest. We anticipate that, on average, this will involve residential care of approximately six to nine months, integrating individualized clinical treatment, structured meaningful work and community living within a therapeutic community model. This is followed by several months of support for Guests as they transition out of Eli's Place into housing, education and work.

The program is built on the Gould Farm model, a 113-year-old residential therapeutic community on a working farm in rural Massachusetts with a strong evidence base and documented long-term outcomes. Gould Farm was selected as the Eli's Place program reference following a global review of 33 comparable centres.

At Eli's Place, work is real, not simulated — the largest single block of time in a Guest's day, and purposefully therapeutic. It produces something that needs to get done and makes each Guest a functional contributor to community life. It is also continuously adapted to each Guest's circumstances and capability on a given day, with staff working alongside Guests and observations from the work setting feeding directly back into the clinical team.



Eli's Place is designed to feel like a home rather than a facility. The physical environment, the daily rhythms and the relationships between Guests and staff are all understood as mechanisms of the therapeutic model, not backdrop to it. Where program needs and operational or resource constraints come into tension, the resolution requires reasoned judgment grounded in the program's values and the needs of the Guest population.

Eli's Place was founded by David and Deborah Cooper following the death of their son Eli Nathan Cooper in 2010, after a long struggle with serious mental illness. In their grief, the Coopers committed to building what Eli himself said he needed — a place where people living with serious mental illness could find time, community and meaningful work, especially on the land in a natural setting, as the foundation for recovery. That commitment has driven the organization for over a decade. It is the reason Eli's Place exists and the reason it matters.

Eli's Place is governed by a skilled and experienced board of directors with deep expertise across mental health, clinical practice, finance, law and community leadership — and grounded in the lived experience of serious mental illness and loss that gave the organization its founding purpose. The board has been the driving force behind the organization since its founding and remains actively engaged in its development.

Location

Eli's Place will operate from Loyola House on the grounds of the Ignatius Jesuit Centre (IJC), a 600-acre working farm and conservation property in Guelph/Eramosa Township, just north of the City of Guelph, Ontario. The IJC is a longstanding charitable organization with deep roots in land stewardship, conservation and community agriculture. Eli's Place is a non-religious program — the relationship with the IJC is an operational one, not a religious affiliation.



Under formal agreements with Eli's Place, the IJC provides the residential facility and coordinates access to the farm and conservation lands on which the outdoor work program is delivered. The IJC brings over three decades of experience in regenerative agriculture, agroecological training and ecological land management, and its Farm and Conservation team works directly alongside Eli's Place staff and Guests in facilitating the land-based work program.

The property includes working farm fields, market gardens, an orchard, old-growth forest, conservation lands, wetlands and maintained trails. Guests participate across a range of work streams drawn from the IJC's decades of land-based programming — from crop planting and seasonal harvesting through to ecological restoration, orchard care and trail construction. The work itself is the vehicle through which Guests develop strengths, form working relationships, build resilience and recover a sense of purpose and worth — the real-life skills and confidence needed to move toward greater independence.

Guelph is a mid-sized city with a strong and growing health and social services sector, a well-established community mental health presence and deep institutional connections through the University of Guelph. Consistently ranked among the safest cities in Ontario, it offers over 1,000 hectares of parkland and trails, a vibrant arts community and a strong civic culture. It also offers a more affordable cost of living than Ontario's larger urban centres. Guelph is widely considered one of the best places to live in Canada.

Eli's Place is also within commuting distance of Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge, Fergus and Milton, and approximately 90 minutes from Toronto.

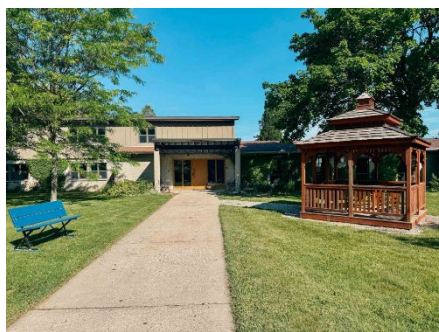


Role

The Residence Advisor provides the day-to-day residential presence at Eli's Place and is part of the team that sustains the home environment around the clock. The role reports to the Residence Manager and is accountable to the clinical team for implementing each Guest's therapeutic goals and care plan in the residential environment, and for providing timely and accurate feedback on Guest progress to inform clinical decision-making.



Residence Advisors support and facilitate a safe, welcoming and therapeutic home for Guests, assisting with daily living, emotional support and skill development, and encouraging participation in the work program and community life. They maintain a safe and secure living environment and respond to safety concerns and incidents in line with established protocols.



As one of the first Residence Advisors, this role helps set the tone and rhythm of residential life as the community takes shape. It calls for someone who brings warmth and steadiness to a new environment and is ready to learn and adapt alongside the team through the early life of a first-of-its-kind program.

At peak, Eli's Place serves up to 30 Guests in residence at any given time, with approximately 40 additional Guests supported through the transition phase.

Key Accountabilities

Guest Support

- Support and facilitate a safe, welcoming and therapeutic home for Guests
- Assist Guests with daily living activities, emotional support and skill development
- Encourage and support Guest participation in the work program, group and social activities

Clinical Alignment

- Implement each Guest's therapeutic goals and care plan in the residential environment
- Provide timely and accurate feedback to the clinical team on Guest progress to inform clinical decision-making
- Respond to crisis situations in accordance with established protocols and in coordination with on-call clinical staff

Safety and Environment

- Maintain a safe, secure and supportive living environment, including awareness of Guest whereabouts, monitoring of the security system as required and response to safety concerns and incidents in accordance with established protocols
- Maintain 24-hour residential coverage on a rotational shift basis, including evenings, overnights and weekends
- Maintain accurate documentation of Guest interactions and incidents

Community and Team

- Contribute to the daily life of the therapeutic community through shared meals, activities and community events
- Participate in community meetings, team meetings and ongoing training

Ideal Candidate

Education and Experience

- Degree or diploma in social sciences, human services, education or a related field, or equivalent experience
- Experience working with adults living with serious mental illness is preferred
- Comfort working in a residential, community-based setting
- Valid Ontario driver's licence

Approach and Judgment

- Warm, consistent and boundaried approach to relationships with Guests
- Emotional resilience and capacity to work in a complex care environment
- Strong communication and documentation skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team

Alignment with the Model

- Commitment to a person-centred model of care
- Genuine openness to or familiarity with the therapeutic community model and recovery-oriented, non-institutional approaches to care
- Comfort working as one member of a small, closely connected founding team
- Innovative and adaptable, with an interest in contributing to a new, first-of-its-kind program model

Conditions of the Role

The role is full-time and on site. Residence Advisors work a rotating shift schedule, including evenings, overnights and weekends, to maintain 24-hour residential coverage. The Residence Advisor participates as a full member of the daily life of the Eli's Place community.

The working schedule is determined by residential and program needs. The salary range for the role reflects the 24-hour nature of residential coverage, including regular evening, overnight and weekend work.

Compensation

The salary range for the Residence Advisor is \$54,000–\$64,000, commensurate with experience and qualifications. Eli's Place offers a competitive health and wellness benefits package. The Residence Advisor will receive three weeks of vacation annually. Eli's Place is committed to the ongoing professional development of its staff. Professional development is supported through a dedicated organizational fund.

Compensation at Eli's Place reflects both the financial and non-financial value of the work. This is a small founding team building something that has never existed in Canada, on a 600-acre working farm where the daily environment is unlike anything an institutional or urban setting can offer. For the right person, that context is as much a part of the offer as the salary.

How to Apply

Eli's Place is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. We encourage applications from individuals of all backgrounds and identities and are committed to a fair and accessible hiring process.

To apply, please submit a résumé and a cover letter addressed to Dr. Chris Joseph, Executive Director. Your cover letter should speak to your experience supporting people in a residential or community-based setting, your comfort working in a 24-hour environment that includes evenings, overnights and weekends, and what draws you to Eli's Place specifically. The substance of the cover letter is an important part of the screening process.

Applications should be submitted by email to jobs@elisplace.org

This position will remain open until filled. Review of applications will begin **September 14, 2026** and we encourage early submission. Applications received by that date will receive first consideration, and the posting will stay open until a suitable candidate is identified.

Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. We thank all applicants for their interest in Eli's Place. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.