**Basic Clinical Description of Project:**

Software engineer and programming expertise is needed immediately, to help develop a web-based computerized therapy intervention for persons with schizophrenia (“Coping with Paranoia”), based somewhat on an already developed program (“Coping with Voices”), which will also be used in this study. The study is a very large, multi-site research project that will take place at approximately 8-10 sites across the country, over a three year period.

The development time period for this new Coping with Paranoia program is approximately 6 months. These programs will be multi-faceted and include some animation, simple Q and A “games” that will test skills learned, videos of people reviewing concepts, user data entry and storage, printable worksheets, and other related exercises. In addition to developing the program with me (Dr. Jen Gottlieb, PI) in the first 6 months for the study, this engineer would also provide ongoing maintenance of this Coping with Paranoia program and any edits or corrections or revisions that were needed along the way (over a 2.5 year period). In addition, this engineer would provide some basic edits to the existing program (“Coping with Voices”) initially (within the development period of “Coping with Paranoia”) and then would provide ongoing maintenance (and any edits or corrections or revisions) of the Coping with Voices program as well along the way (over a 2.5 year period).

**Time Period and Salary:** Hiring immediately for this position. The development period for the Coping with Paranoia program is 6 months, starting immediately, and the bulk of the work will be done in the first year of the grant. Thus, the percent effort on the project, based on an annual salary of approximately $100,000, is as follows:

Year 1: 70% effort (with the bulk of the effort taking place in the first 6 months)
Year 2: 10% effort
Year 3: 10% effort

**Technical Description of Program:**

The technical “product” description of the already existing “Coping with Voices” program is as follows: “Coping with Voices” is a Ruby-on-Rails based self-guided educational program that combines Adobe Flash-based Games and Tutorials, as well as audio voice-over MP3 and YouTube videos for "help". It is a self-help program that guides a user through 10 sessions. The program uses databases - MySQL. The general flow of the application is for users to get a tutorial, be quizzed on their acquisition of knowledge conveyed in the tutorial, then to advance to a Flash-based game that requires the user to apply the knowledge that they've just learned.

**Qualifications:**

1. Experienced Ruby on Rails programmer - ideally 3 + years’ experience. Experience with Rails 2.2 or (even 2.3) is important.
2. JavaScript experience - ideally 2+ years’ experience
3. Experienced database person with MySQL experience
4. Ideally - experience with integration of ADOBE FLASH application into Ruby on Rails applications.

Also, Adobe Flash Developer/Programmer skills with qualifications as follows:
Flash developer needed for update and modification of existing database driven Flash games. Developer should have at least 3 years flash development experience, with examples; web game applications a strong plus. Must have very good knowledge of ActionScript. Experience with Client/server applications very helpful. Basic design / Photoshop skills for UI integration and tweaking also valuable.

Ideally, one person would be able to do the Ruby and the Flash development. However, two people would be considered to share the position if necessary.

Please direct interest and queries to Dr. Jen Gottlieb, BU Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at jgott@bu.edu or 617.353.3549.