



Position Announcement – November 21, 2017

Position Title: Community Organizer

Reports To: Director of Economic Justice/Illinois Policy Director

Location of Job: Chicago, IL

Organizational Description: The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law (Shriver Center) is a not-for-profit organization that provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. We work directly to win positive change through our specific advocacy initiatives and we provide a range of professional development resources that support and mobilize the national network of advocates engaged in those efforts. We engage in a broad range of interrelated policy areas and accomplish our mission through programs involving legislative and administrative advocacy and education, policy development, litigation, organizing, communications, and training.

At the Shriver Center, we know that a richly diverse mix of professionals makes organizations more effective. As such, we make demographic and experiential diversity a hallmark and priority of all our work.

Position Description: The Shriver Center seeks a Community Organizer to advance the Shriver Center's efforts to secure sufficient revenue to fund vital state services, make smart investments for the future and advocate for tax fairness in the State of Illinois. The Community Organizer is primarily responsible for managing the efforts of the Responsible Budget Coalition, a statewide coalition of 300+ organizations. Through organizing, s/he is responsible for engaging coalition members in budget and tax advocacy and advancing coordinated efforts that will enable the coalition to obtain its shared goals. Time permitting, the Community Organizer also will work with the Shriver Center's advocacy unit to align its Illinois anti-poverty advocacy agenda with community interests, particularly in the areas of early childhood, food security, and public benefits.

The ideal candidate will have a proven ability to foster coordination and cooperation among diverse groups. S/he will be committed to getting results in a fast-paced environment and able to handle multiple initiatives while staying aligned to an overall goal. This position is an opportunity to engage with policy makers, nonprofits, civic leaders, and constituents to help bring about real legislative change.

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate “big tent” coalition with statewide cross-sector membership including human services, social justice, healthcare, education, faith, labor, and other community groups.
- Facilitate and support initiatives that move the campaign forward, strengthen the coalition's base, build skill and capacity of member organizations, and empower impacted communities.
- Participate in RBC policy development, campaign strategy and messaging.
- Engage RBC members in advocacy including in-district meetings with legislators; speaking to media and at press conferences, rallies, town halls and hearings; writing op-eds and letters to the editor, social media and action alerts; and assisting with lobby days.
- Provide added capacity and support to member organizations in state budget advocacy work including political and policy analysis, presentations on the state budget, drafting and editing talking points, opinion pieces and other written material, and support for events, media work and facilitating relationships between members.





- Travel to RBC regional areas to engage RBC member organizations, build relationships around common interests, and execute and participate in events.
- Manage a variety of engagement levels of members (leadership, participant, supporter) and variety of advocacy styles of members (direct action, influential relationships with decision makers, etc.).
- Take lead in planning RBC Executive Committee meetings.
- Contribute to editing of RBC's weekly newsletter.
- Participate in communications campaign strategy with Shriver Center communications team and consultants.
- Oversee RBC social media and website content, member list and listserv management.
- Cultivate RBC members to serve as campaign spokespeople in geographies across the state. Serve as media source or spokesperson as needed

Requirements and Qualifications:

We're seeking candidates who excel in relationship-building, are results-oriented, and have strong project management skills.

- A track record of developing and maintaining strong working relationships with and among a diverse group of stakeholders.
- Experience leading or participating in successful statewide advocacy campaigns.
- Experience organizing and working in communities of color or rural communities.
- Experience managing multiple projects and ability to oversee a cadre of staff, consultants, and volunteers.
- Understanding of Illinois fiscal policy, legislative process and advocacy with Springfield lobbying experience.
- A demonstrated commitment to meeting a high bar and a history of getting things done even in the face of obstacles.
- Strong written and verbal communications skills.
- Must be able and willing to travel in Illinois an average of 1 – 2 days per week.
- Must be available to attend evening and weekend meetings 3 – 5 times per month.
- 5 years or more of organizing experience preferred.
- Masters or other advanced degree preferred.

Salary/Benefits: This full-time position offers a competitive public interest salary and a comprehensive benefits package.

Opening/Closing Dates: Open immediately; closed when filled.

Applications: Send resume and cover letter to the attention of Dan Lesser at hr@povertylaw.org. Please send materials as a single and searchable PDF attachment.

Visit www.povertylaw.org for more information about the Shriver Center.

