

Job Announcement: May 16, 2018

Position Title: Economic Justice & Public Benefits VISTA
Reports to: Director, Illinois Policy/Director, Economic Justice
Supervises: N/A
Location: Chicago, IL

Organizational Overview: The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. We put race front and center in our work. We recognize that inclusion of diverse voices, perspectives, and experiences is essential to understanding and addressing complex issues in our advocacy and within our organization. To that end, we focus on issues that deeply affect the lives and social mobility of people living in poverty: economic justice, housing justice, health care justice, and community justice. We lead, equip, and mobilize multi-state networks to advance an anti-poverty and racial justice agenda. Through training and leadership development programs designed to foster innovation and collaboration, we strengthen core competencies of advocates across the country.

Position Overview: The Economic Justice team at the Shriver Center takes action against poverty by advocating for policies that expand economic opportunities for all and enable everyone to live with dignity. Through policy development and effective advocacy, the Economic Justice team helps communities avoid a cycle of debt and poverty by expanding access to work and income support programs. The Economic Justice team advocates for the economic interests of poor people by ensuring access to income support programs and making investments in these publicly-funded programs high priorities in state and federal budget allocations. These programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, and the Child Care Assistance Program. Access to income supports provides a basic level of economic stability and gives individuals opportunities to increase their earning capacity and move out of poverty.

Responsibilities:

- Assist with national efforts to move low-income and welfare-to-work populations into the economic mainstream;
- Participate in the SNAP Appeals Clinics with other members of the Economic Justice team; this includes creating and presenting at trainings for food bank staff and volunteers, interviewing potential SNAP appeal clients, and representing them throughout the SNAP Appeal process with the Department of Human Services;
- Track national and state policies and laws on relevant issues;
- Attend conferences and meetings on relevant issues;
- Assist in the project management of statewide coalitions, which includes policy development, building constituency, communications, and outreach;
- Assist with the communication and outreach of the Economic Justice team's missions and goals, by writing research papers, fact sheets, and blog articles;
- Organize meetings, develop meeting agendas, notes, and communication pieces, evaluations and analysis, and nationwide outreach/promotion;
- Participate in a variety of special projects with other Shriver Center advocacy staff attorneys; and



- Support the Director of Economic Justice with administrative tasks as needed.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree preferred;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills;
- Proficient in Microsoft Word and web-based research;
- Experience with data manipulation in Microsoft Excel;
- Excellent public speaking skills;
- Ability to function both in a team and independently;
- Familiarity with the Shriver Center's policy issues preferred;
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice and advancing racial equity;
- Experience working and managing across lines of difference and working with and in economically and racially diverse communities preferred; and
- Demonstrated commitment to the Shriver Center's mission, vision, and values.

Salary/Benefits: Please note that this is not a job, but a one-year volunteer position with benefits funded by the AmeriCorps*Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program (www.americorps.gov). Benefits include a monthly living allowance, a healthcare plan, a housing stipend, a transportation stipend and, after successful completion of the term, an education award that can be used to repay students loans or for future education expenses. Federal student loans may also be deferred during the 12-month commitment.

Opening/Closing Date: Application deadline is June 22, 2018. Pre-service training begins on August 13, 2018 and ends on August 16, 2018. Start date is August 16, 2018.

Applications: Send a cover letter, résumé, and references to Dan Lesser at hr@povertylaw.org.

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

