

Job Announcement: May 29, 2018

Position Title: Housing & Homelessness VISTA

Reports to: Director of Housing Justice

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 Housing & Homelessness VISTA supports the work of the Shriver Center's Housing Justice team to protect housing rights and expand housing opportunities for individuals and families with low income. Through a combination of litigation, policy advocacy, and community partnerships, the Housing Justice team works to promote fair housing, preserve affordable housing, and challenge common barriers to affordable housing access throughout Chicago and Illinois.

Responsibilities:

- Provide research assistance to advance policies related to affordable housing and other housing issues faced by people with low incomes;
- Provide research and support for federal civil rights lawsuits, administrative complaints, and other legal proceedings;
- Provide research support and write summaries, newsletter articles, fact sheets, and memoranda for advocates, coalitions, working groups, community organizations, and clients;
- Provide research assistance on housing policies related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
- Provide research assistance around the preservation of affordable housing;
- Provide research assistance on housing policies to dismantle unreasonable barriers for people who have left the criminal justice system and to reduce the discriminatory use of crime-free and nuisance ordinances;
- Provide program assistance on other policies and practices related to affordable housing access, including the rights of limited English speakers; ensuring immigrant access to fair housing; and environmental justice in low-income communities;
- Track local and national news for articles relevant to the Housing Justice team's work;
- Track local and national legislation for issues relevant to the Housing Justice team;
- Participate in a variety of special projects with Shriver Center advocacy staff attorneys;
- Attend meetings and assist in reporting, service days, and other requirements of the AmeriCorps*VISTA program; and
- Other duties as assigned.



Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree preferred;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Excellent organizational and time management skills;
- Proficient in Internet research, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel;
- Dedicated, independent, and detail-oriented;
- Familiarity with GIS/mapping software preferred, but not required;
- Familiarity with housing issues preferred, but not required;
- 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 15, 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 and résumé to Kate Walz at hr@povertylaw.org.

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

