



YOUTH LAW CENTER SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR POLICY ADVOCATE POSITION

The Youth Law Center is seeking an experienced policy advocate to support our advocacy on behalf of children and youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Youth Law Center is a national impact legal advocacy organization based in San Francisco, California. We believe every child and youth has the potential to live a healthy and productive life. For more than 35 years, the Center has advocated to ensure vulnerable system involved children throughout the country are able to receive the effective parenting and necessary supports for healthy development. Information on the Center and its activities is available on its website, www.ylc.org.

This is an opportunity for a highly-motivated individual to play a leadership role in child welfare and juvenile justice system change through leading and managing site work and technical assistance in specific local jurisdictions and working on necessary policy and practice changes in order to ensure developmentally appropriate care for systems involved youth. The policy advocate will be part of a team of attorneys and advocates working on areas including: protecting children and youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems from abuse and dangerous conditions in out-of-home care; ensuring that government and other agencies provide support and services (e.g., health, mental health, education) to enable system involved youth to become healthy and productive adults; and ensuring youth in both systems have individualized, developmentally appropriate parenting as well as connections to permanent families and to their communities.

Specific responsibilities will include:

- Managing and monitoring site based advocacy efforts;
- Building and maintaining coalitions of stakeholders in support of YLC's policy goals;
- Facilitating policy efforts and meetings with key stakeholders in jurisdictions selected for systems reform projects;
- Leading team efforts to develop advocacy strategies and identify and provide necessary technical assistance to jurisdictions in order to support policies and practices that ensure healthy development for system involved youth; and
- Developing communications and educational policy materials for a variety of audiences.

Qualifications:

Successful candidates will have:

- Excellent planning, organizational and advanced project management skills;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to facilitate, write persuasively and clearly, communicate effectively with diverse populations, and build strong partnerships and coalitions;
- Ability to think strategically and analytically and identify policy issues;
- Substantive knowledge of child welfare and/or juvenile justice or closely related areas and deep commitment and passion to reform;
- Creativity, passion and vision to challenge the status quo;
- Ability to work well with diverse groups of people, including families and youth;
- Capacity to take initiative on identified goals, manage multiple tasks simultaneously, work independently and meet deadlines;
- Capacity to be flexible and adapt to varied environments;
- Ability to travel regularly;
- A J.D., Master's or Advanced degree in public policy, social work, child development, or related field; and
- Minimum of 10 years of increasing responsibility in practice, policy or research.

We strongly encourage people of color, and individuals who themselves were in the child welfare or juvenile justice system when they were young, to apply.

Salary: Commensurate with experience and excellent benefits.

Applicants are encouraged to apply before September 30, 2016.

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

The application requires a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and the names of three references. To help us better understand your qualifications, please describe in your cover letter: (1) your interest in this position, what you believe you bring to the work of YLC, and why both are compatible with YLC's mission and model; and (2) an issue, project or challenge you have handled that demonstrates your strengths as an advocate and in managing projects. Please send your application to:

Robin Bishop
Youth Law Center
200 Pine Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 543-3379, ext. 3913
rbishop@ylc.org