



Housing & Homelessness Organizer

Position: Housing and Homelessness Organizer

Hours: Full-time

Salary Range: \$55,000-\$65,000

Organization Overview: VOCAL-NY is building a movement of low-income people dedicated to ending the AIDS epidemic, the war on drugs, mass incarceration, and homelessness. We fight for systemic change rooted in justice, compassion, and love. We approach our work with a firm belief in reducing harm and ending stigma, and the knowledge that the issues impacting our communities are driven by institutional oppression, not personal failings. Our campaigns and direct services have saved or improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers across the state.

At VOCAL-NY we accomplish our goals through community organizing, leadership development, advocacy, direct services, participatory research and direct action. We are based in New York City, with regional offices in Albany and Rochester, and chapters in Buffalo, Syracuse, and Westchester County.

Position Description

VOCAL-NY is seeking a talented individual interested in creating grassroots political power as part of a dynamic team. The community organizer will be responsible for base-building, leadership development, and civic engagement among low-income people who are impacted by homelessness and promote their participation in policy decisions that impact their lives. Examples of active campaigns include:

- Removing barriers to housing, and strengthening protections to maintain housing for people with a history of drug use, incarceration and long-term homelessness.
- Winning housing opportunities for people with a history of drug use, incarceration and long-term homelessness.
- Supporting a coalition to address the overarching homeless crisis in New York City & State.

Job activities are varied and may include: community outreach; mobilization; leadership development; base-building; event coordination; monitoring the implementation of legislation; data collection and analysis; communications and media outreach; and creating

public education and advocacy materials. Some administrative tasks (e.g. phone calls, data entry) are assigned as needed.

Job Responsibilities:

- *Membership Recruitment:* Conduct base building activities and achieve targeted membership recruitment goals, especially through outreach at transitional housing facilities, shelters, methadone and harm reduction programs, re-entry programs and other venues as directed.
- *Leadership Development:* Conduct trainings that build the knowledge and skills of people who are impacted by homelessness with a history of incarceration and drug use to participate in planning and policymaking that affects their lives, as well as Know Your Rights trainings.
- *Issue ID and Campaign Coordination:* Assist members in identifying advocacy issues, developing advocacy strategy, and implementation.
- *Mobilization:* Turn out large numbers of members to rallies, meetings and other events through mass phone banking and relationship building.
- *Phone-banking:* In addition to directly phone-banking, the position will coordinate phone-banking for members.
- *Membership Meetings:* Convene regular membership meetings and smaller campaign/committee meetings.
- *Database:* Record and input data into our community organizing database
- *Support:* The position will also be expected to provide support for all community organizing and campaigns around the drug war, mass incarceration, and HIV/AIDS within VOCAL-NY as needed. We have a highly collaborative office environment where staff members provide regular support for each other's campaigns, which is in part a function of our limited resources and ambitious scope of work.

Requirements / Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will be an energetic, self-motivated individual who has strong interpersonal, public speaking and problem solving skills. Candidates must demonstrate interest in criminal justice and drug policy reform and a willingness to approach these issues through a racial justice analysis. Candidates must have at least two years of experience in community organizing and/or related fields – campaign experiences is a plus. Interest in working as a member of a team and in a fast-paced, dynamic environment is essential. Basic computer skills, including ability to use the internet, email, word processing (e.g. Microsoft Word) and spreadsheets (e.g. Excel) programs are required.

Compensation:

The salary for this position is \$55,000-\$65,000 and will be commensurate with experience. VOCAL-NY offers a generous benefits package of twenty days of paid vacation, 100% employer-covered health and dental insurance plan, and 401k retirement plan.

Equal Opportunity Statement:

VOCAL-NY is an equal opportunity employer. People who currently or have a history of using drugs, women, people of color, people who are LGBTQ and people living with HIV/AIDS are strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, please visit our website at www.vocal-ny.org

Note: Only those candidates under consideration will be contacted