



CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES

A PRIVATE NONPROFIT CORPORATION
62 WASHINGTON ST. MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
TELEPHONE (860) 344-0447
FAX (860) 346-2938
E-MAIL POVERTYLAW@CONNLEGALSERVICES.ORG

ANN TAYLOR
BOARD CHAIR

DEBORAH R. WITKIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

POSITION AVAILABLE

Community Organizer – Bridgeport, CT
November 2019

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. (CLS) is hiring a community organizer to build and support community groups and to launch a community-led campaign for the development/ redevelopment of high quality, affordable housing. The community organizer will conduct community outreach, education, training, and engage in advocacy on behalf of low-income residents of Bridgeport. At the project's completion, the organizer will hand off a sustainable model for long-term engagement with, and empowerment of, low-income communities.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

CLS is Connecticut's largest non-profit law firm, providing free legal help to low-income people in areas including housing, consumer, elder, family law, public benefits, education, immigration, employment, and disability. With a staff of almost 80 in seven offices across Connecticut, CLS fights for equal justice and improved life opportunities for more than 12,000 people every year.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Community Organizer will work with CLS Attorneys and be responsible for:

- Identifying, recruiting and developing community members.
- Creating and conducting community outreach and education, including Know Your Rights Presentations.
- Interviewing persons who believe they are or were treated unlawfully for possible referral to CLS.
- Connecting community members with CLS advocates.
- Organizing and facilitating community meetings.
- Developing and implementing campaign work plans.
- Planning local actions with community members and groups.
- Advising on press strategy.
- Working with directly impacted people to give testimony that advances CLS' housing campaign.
- Navigating community and political relationships and empowering resident leaders to do this for their own committees.
- Addressing housing issues and concerns during community meetings.
- Working independently in a fast-paced and start up environment.
- Identifying opportunities to organize around housing rights issues.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- At least 1 year of experience in community or other relevant organizing fields.
- Must be available to work a flexible schedule, including weekends.

Connecticut Legal Services is an equal opportunity employer and contractor. We proudly value diversity and encourage candidates of all backgrounds to apply.



- Demonstrated commitment to social justice, community organizing and the elevation of directly impacted and marginalized people to create change.
- Ability to speak and write in English/Spanish.
- Must have your own transportation.
- Knowledge of the Bridgeport community is preferred.
- Ability to effectively utilize job-related software including, but not limited to, Microsoft Word, Outlook, Excel and the internet.
- Ability to type proficiently, prepare reports, and write correspondence and e-mail.

PROJECT DURATION and COMPENSATION:

This is a 17 hour per week, \$25 per hour, grant-funded project that will last until approximately December 31, 2020. It will not continue beyond the grant period.

This is a non-benefits position.

APPLICATION:

Applications for the community organizer opportunity should be emailed to Avery Lupia, Human Resource Manager at alupia@connlegalservices.org. In order to expedite the internal sorting and reviewing process, please include your name (Last, First) and "Community Organizer" as the only contents in the subject line of your email. Applications should include:

- A cover letter with a statement of interest in this project,
- A CV, resume, or list of qualifications, including a summary of any successful projects or experiences related to community organizing, and
- The names and contact information for three references.