

Strategies for Children, Inc.

Job Description

Title: Field Organizer

Reports to: Deputy Campaign Director of Operations

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Evenings and Weekends may be required

Profile:

Strategies for Children's Early Education for All Campaign (EEA) seeks to make high-quality early education available to every 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old in Massachusetts. As a result of EEA's advocacy, the State Legislature created the Massachusetts Universal Pre-K (MA UPK) program through the FY07 state budget, funding 131 MA UPK Classroom Quality grants to 187 pre-kindergarten classrooms/settings, serving 3,002 children in 62 cities and towns. The Campaign's efforts are focused on securing significant new state investments for this program, including \$100 million in the FY09 state budget, reaching \$600 million in new dollars by FY12. The Field Organizer will be responsible for: 1) using the MA UPK grantees as the core, oversee the development, implementation and management of a statewide field infrastructure composed of early educators, parents, business leaders, pediatricians, and others in support of achieving "early education for all;" 2) training the grantees and others to engage in and measure the effectiveness of awareness and advocacy activities in legislative districts across the state; 3) working with the grantees to evaluate and inform policy recommendations related to the implementation of MA UPK; 4) maximizing the Campaign's e-dvocracy and communications infrastructure with its volunteers statewide; and 5) supporting SFC's broader mission on behalf of children and families. This position requires a highly skilled early educator with superb judgment and excellent communication, planning and team-building skills. A sense of humor, flexibility, initiative, teamwork and excellent follow through are key to being effective in this position. Outstanding candidates will also bring a passion for the project's mission and an entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to fostering high performance and innovation.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Convene, train, and mobilize the MA UPK grantees as the core of a statewide field organization which will advocate on behalf of the Campaign's policy goals.
- Create and manage opportunities for grantees and others to advocate on behalf of MA UPK through the state budget and legislative processes, and other opportunities as they arise. Track and utilize effectiveness of advocacy efforts.
- Strengthen EEA's existing field team of early childhood professionals, parents, business leaders, pediatricians and others through both on-line and off-line recruitment strategies in key legislative districts.
- Convene MA UPK grantees and others and provide on-going training on effective advocacy and awareness building strategies.

- Work with Deputy Campaign Director of Operations and other members of SFC's field team to develop training materials and curriculum in both electronic and hard copy format.
- Coordinate regional meetings with other organizations as appropriate.
- Monitor effectiveness of on-line versus off-line training.
- Engage grantees and others in effective awareness building strategies including submitting letters to the editor and/or Op-Eds to local papers, tracking early education press, and working with EEA to generate additional coverage.
- Engage grantees and others in advocacy efforts including developing relationships and communicating with elected officials and implementing SFC/EEA electoral strategy during election cycles, as appropriate.
- Work with the MA UPK grantees to evaluate and make policy recommendations regarding the implementation of MA UPK. Work with SFC team to communicate recommendations to appropriate audiences including Department of Early Education and Care and the Legislature.
- Work with Director of Communications to strengthen EEA's ongoing communications infrastructure with the MA UPK grantees and others across Massachusetts, including emails, conference calls, and meetings.
- Represent Campaign at external meetings including those held by the Department of Early Education and Care and other relevant early education organizations, as appropriate.
- Manage utilization of technology, including blogs, e-advocacy, and the EEA website, to maximize effectiveness of field operation.
- Inform development of collateral for field recruitment, training, and mobilization.
- Manage/become involved in other SFC projects as needed.

Qualifications:

- Significant experience in an early education and care setting within Massachusetts.
- Experience in community outreach and organizing at either the local or statewide level.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Familiarity with e-advocacy and web-posting software.
- A self-starter who can work independently and also as a highly effective team member.
- Detail oriented and diligent in follow through.
- Own a car and be willing to travel statewide, and work flexible hours including evenings and weekends.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience with organizing political/legislative campaigns.
- Familiarity with state legislative process.
- Bilingual: English and Spanish.

Expected Starting Date: Immediately
Salary: Based on experience

Please forward resumes to Diana Meyers, Office Administrator, at dmeyers@strategiesforchildren.org.

*Strategies for Children, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
 Persons of color, women and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.*

**Strategies for Children, Inc., 400 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02110
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