



Job Title: Senior Community/Political Organizer

Mission of the Children's Defense Fund

The Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

CDF provides a strong, effective and independent voice for *all* the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor children, children of color and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investments before they get sick, drop out of school, get into trouble or suffer family breakdown.

CDF began in 1973 and is a private, nonprofit organization supported by individual donations, foundation, corporate and government grants.

About the Children's Defense Fund - CA

The Children's Defense Fund-California (CDF-CA) is the state office of the Children's Defense Fund, a non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly for more than 40 years to ensure a level playing field for all children. CDF-CA champions policies and programs that lift children out of poverty, protect them from abuse and neglect, and ensure their access to health care and a quality education.

Position Summary

The Senior Community/Political Organizer serves as a core member of the Educational Equity and Programs teams and will play a leadership role in CDF-CA's regional efforts to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline. Specifically, this individual through organizing, engagement and mobilization will lead our efforts in Long Beach (centered in North Long Beach) to expand our base of Long Beach youth interested in community involvement and social action through our CDF Freedom Schools® program and Long Beach Unified School District schools. The Senior Community/Political Organizer will work to develop the leadership capacity of Long Beach youth to organize local campaigns on social, economic, and racial justice issues. The position will support the work of CDF-CA and its coalitions to create systemic changes that improve outcomes for children and youth, particularly those impacting poor children and children of color. The position is based primarily in Long Beach with bi-weekly travel to Los Angeles and occasional travel to our Oakland and Sacramento offices.

Core Responsibilities

- Conduct outreach to Long Beach youth interested in community involvement and social activism from the CDF Freedom Schools® program, Long Beach Unified School District schools, and local community events;
- Build and sustain a base of 50 youth members;
- Facilitate bi-monthly meetings with youth leaders in Long Beach to develop and coordinate community organizing and advocacy campaigns around CDF-CA's policy priorities, which include educational equity, youth transportation, health access, racial justice, youth justice, and economic justice;
- Work with youth leaders to develop their political education and leadership skills including public speaking, story-based narrative analysis, meeting facilitation; and community organizing skills such as outreach, mobilizing, and nonviolent direct action;
- Collaborate with partner organizations to engage 10-20 high school age youth in the *Freedom Schools* program—a six-week summer literacy enrichment program to gain leadership, policy advocacy, and activism skills;

- Assist in the development of a curriculum, aligned with the CDF *Freedom Schools* program, to engage youth beyond the six weeks of summer to extend over the course of the school year;
- Work with the Senior Policy Associate for Educational Equity, develop and implement both short and long-term, outcome driven campaigns to address issues disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations with a specific focus on poor children and children of color;
- Work closely with CDF-CA's policy and program staff to inform the organization's role and strategies in state and local policies;
- Collaborate closely with local and statewide coalition partners as we develop organizing, policy advocacy, and communications strategies to increase the profile of CDF-CA policy priorities and level the playing field in California;
- Represent CDF-CA programmatic and policy goals at appropriate meetings, presentations and community events as needed;
- Support the creation and distribution of communications on CDF-CA activities and issues, including material for our website, social media, and newsletters;
- Create culturally and linguistically appropriate educational materials to engage youth and community members;
- Contribute to maintenance of CDF-CA's calendar of events, organizational databases, and all records and reports for CDF-CA, community stakeholders, and funders;
- Other duties as assigned.

Desired Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree completed or in progress, and/or three years of relevant professional experience in community organizing;
- Experience working on local, state and federal legislation and systems change that has impacted children and working families;
- Experience developing and implementing campaigns;
- Experience working with youth and families;
- Strong group facilitation skills;
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, written and verbal;
- Strong analytical, negotiation, and problem-solving skills;
- Strong time and task management skills;
- Genuine commitment and sensitivity to children and community issues;
- Commitment to economic, cultural diversity; a personal approach that values the individual and respects differences of race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ability and socio-economic circumstance, and able to work with diverse individuals within the organization and broader community.
- Restorative approach to working with diverse groups of people;
- Highly motivated and independent, yet team-oriented;
- Able to work weekends and evenings;
- Can navigate public transportation, or has reliable transportation;
- Knowledge of computer and other standard office equipment skills sufficient to prepare flyers and other communications; and
- Ability to think strategically about long-term systems change and movement-building

To apply please submit a cover letter and resume to: www.childrensdefense.org/jobs

THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER