

Advocates for Children and Youth (ACY) Juvenile Justice Policy Director

WHO WE ARE

Advocates for Children and Youth (ACY) is a powerful nonpartisan voice for Maryland's children and youth. ACY is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency founded in 1987 by a group of prominent child advocates in Maryland who saw the need for an independent organization to advocate for the needs of the state's children and families in the community, the media and the public policy arena.

OUR MISSION

ACY's mission is to identify problems, promote policies and programs that improve results for Maryland children in measurable and meaningful ways, and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and policies for the state's children and youth.

WHAT WE DO

We believe that all children in the State have the right to the basics – education, health, safety and economic security. We advocate for children and youth in Maryland by:

- Researching issues affecting children in Maryland in our core areas of health, juvenile justice, education and child welfare, applying the lens of economic sufficiency and racial disparities to each issue;
- Responding to trends and new information and decisions by policy makers;
- Publishing Issue Briefs and other publications that bring to light policies and policy decisions that affect children;
- Communicating with agency department heads, legislators, and elected officials to address policies and decisions affecting children in Maryland;
- Speaking out to mainstream and other media to identify issues and solutions, build consensus, and promote decision making that beneficially affects children;
- Maintaining our website (www.acy.org) as a vehicle and medium to raise awareness of issues affecting children and identify and advance solutions;
- Building effective solution-centered coalitions to advance policies in the best interests of children and youth.

Essential Functions for the Juvenile Justice Policy Director

1. Contribute to broad grassroots campaign for transformational juvenile justice reform through research, public education, technical assistance and outreach.
2. Work with community and juvenile justice stakeholders to educate state and local agencies, elected officials, business leaders and others about the needs of children and youth in Maryland's juvenile justice system and promising policies and practices that would meet these needs.
3. Investigate and assess the needs of children and youth within Maryland's juvenile justice system and develop strategies for addressing these needs, which may include policy reforms relating to school-based arrests, youth detention, commitment services and aftercare.

4. Maintain, support and build collaborative relationships with city, state and federal advocacy and policy organizations, which monitor laws, policies and budgets and stay informed about new research and promising practices.
5. Monitor city, state and federal regulations and budget within the area of Juvenile Justice.
6. Monitor and assess likely impact of legislative and budgetary proposals, and promote proposals that will benefit youth in the juvenile justice system, including submitting written and oral testimony on relevant legislation.
7. Help develop media coverage in the area of juvenile justice.
8. Collect, analyze and influence collection of state data on accountability in the juvenile justice system and as appropriate, write and disseminate issue briefs and action alerts.
9. Represent ACY on juvenile justice related task forces and committees and at public relations events.
10. Produce written materials – issue briefs, letters to the editor, op-eds, testimony, media advisories, infographics, etc. – as necessary to support our advocacy.
11. Assist in the development of proposals to fund the program and submit progress reports to ensure compliance with all relevant requirements of funders.
12. The position is full time; some evenings may be necessary for community-based work.

Position Requirements

Education: JD, Masters or demonstrated work equivalent required.

Experience:

1. Five or more years of experience in the field of juvenile justice advocacy and public policy development.
2. Experience in advocating for policy change at the city and state levels of each branch of government.
3. Demonstrated care for youth and commitment to juvenile justice reform.
4. Knowledge of the history of juvenile justice system in the United States or Maryland and the disproportionate impact that juvenile justice policies have on youth of color and young people with disabilities.
5. Knowledge of government relations in Baltimore City and Maryland.
6. Experience with grassroots advocacy a plus.

Skills:

1. Strong research and writing skills.
2. Good public speaking skills.
3. Ability to build and maintain effective coalitions.
4. Ability to interpret and synthesize research on effective practices.
5. Ability to conduct assessments of ongoing policy initiatives.

Send resume and writing sample to jobsearch@acy.org

No telephone calls please.

Advocates for Children and Youth is an equal opportunity employer.