



If you are excited to help us deepen our connection with the community and you have experience bringing people together toward a shared goal, this might be the job for you!

The Food Bank is seeking a Community Engagement Organizer to develop and implement a new program to shift public policy decision-making power to people with lived experience of hunger and poverty and to train community members to advocate for effective policies that address food insecurity and its underlying causes. The job description is below.

In addition to a great work environment, we offer:

- 45-minute paid lunch
- 14 days of paid vacation to start
- 10 paid sick days
- 80% of health insurance premium is paid by the Food Bank
- 50% of dental insurance premium is paid by the Food Bank
- We match up to 3% of retirement plan contributions after 6 months with us

The starting pay for this position is \$23.52/hour with higher starting pay based on preferences as listed in the job description including being proficient in languages in addition to English.

To apply please send a resume and cover letter to jobs@foodbankwma.org so we can get to know you.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Develop and implement plans to engage cohorts of community members with lived/living experience of poverty to raise public awareness about food insecurity and its underlying causes through advocacy.
- Create and implement a grassroots advocacy training program for these community engagement teams.
- Engage the community cohorts to participate in the annual development of the Food Bank's public policy priorities.
- Execute local and/or state advocacy campaigns in collaboration with community engagement teams
- Support members of the community engagement teams with ongoing outreach with legislators, decision makers and others with lived experience of poverty.
- Collaborate with the Public Policy Manager, the Food Bank advocacy committee, community engagement teams, and statewide partners to help develop and carry out the Food Bank's advocacy strategies at the state and federal level.

- Identify and support opportunities for community advocates to develop and train community members.
- Serve as primary liaison with Feeding America and their Neighbors Empowerment and Advocacy Training (NEAT) Project administrators and Community Engagement staff.
- Support ethical storytelling efforts by connecting interested community members with the Community Impact Storyteller
- Work with the Communications team to develop effective advocacy-related and community engagement materials and communications
- Build and maintain relationships with state and national partners and coalitions to further the Food Bank's public policy priorities.
- Attend bi-weekly Food Bank advocacy strategy meeting

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend the annual National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in Washington, DC.
- Assist Public Policy Manager and Grants Officer in gathering information to include in grant reports
- Represent the Food Bank at various meetings and coalitions in the community, as needed
- At the request of the Public Policy Manager, represent the Advocacy department at various internal meetings
- Perform other similar duties as required (by responsibility or necessity) or as requested by supervisor

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Onsite work at Food Bank office in Chicopee; some remote work is available if desired
- In-person meetings with stakeholders in the community or at the Food Bank
- Frequent travel within Western Massachusetts with eventual travel to Boston and/or Washington, DC on occasion

JOB SPECIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

- Associates Degree or equivalent; extensive experience counts toward degree
- 2-4 years of experience with community, small group collaboration, and/or coalition building.
- Very strong written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to present information to small and large groups succinctly, clearly, and professionally and the ability to communicate effectively with others in person, on the phone, by email, and by social media
- Computer skills including:
 - Ability to edit and format professional documents including memos, reports, and letters
 - Ability to input, manipulate, and format data, and to read and understand spreadsheets
 - Ability to conduct online research
- Strong diplomatic, motivational, and interpersonal skills

- Demonstrated strong organizational and time management skills
- Ability to work well within a team and to be flexible in a changing environment
- Ability to travel throughout Western MA with reliable transportation. If driving, a driving record that would be insurable by the Food Bank
- A commitment to understanding and addressing racial, economic, and social inequities
- Demonstrated ability to be a creative and motivated self-starter who can function productively and effectively with a degree of autonomy.

JOB PREFERENCES

- Working knowledge of hunger, poverty, and intersectional issues
- Experience with Microsoft Office Suite
- Exposure to diverse experiences and perspectives (geographic, cultural, economic, political, etc.)
- Experience speaking to groups
- Experience developing trainings and/or curricula
- Experience presenting trainings
- Experience in public policy and/or advocacy
- Project development and management skills
- Bilingual preferred English with other language(s)
- Experience working with or leading teams
- Additional experience in community, small group collaboration, and/or coalition building.

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