



Community Engagement & Advocacy Coordinator

Operation Food Search (OFS) is championing change through the development of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals working together to design, implement, and evaluate innovative solutions to address food insecurity, nutrition, and the social determinants of health. The public policy team is working to scale and sustain successful innovations through policy change at the institutional, local, state, and national levels and advance systems change that ensures food security and economic mobility for all families in Missouri.

Position Overview

The Community Engagement & Advocacy Coordinator will focus on recruiting and engaging advocates, community leaders and partner organizations to support OFS's policy agenda, especially our food-is-medicine policy priorities. The ideal candidate will be someone who is passionate about advancing policy and systems change through organizing community members and developing leaders. This position reports to the Manager of Public Policy.

Organization Overview

Operation Food Search (OFS), a hunger relief organization based in St. Louis, MO, strengthens the safety net by empowering children, teens and adults with a range of innovative programs and services proven to reduce food insecurity and increase access to healthy and affordable food. We help feed 200,000 people every month.

Mission: To nourish and educate our neighbors in need to heal the hurt of hunger.

Goals: 1) Meet the immediate need for food for children and families; 2) Empower long-term skills by teaching culinary skills and nutrition education; 3) Champion change through advocacy and innovation.

For more information about OFS, please visit www.operationfoodsearch.org.

Primary Position Responsibilities

- Recruit, educate and support our network of advocates and community leaders.
- Plan, coordinate and facilitate regular community meetings to foster relationship building and shared learning among advocates about food insecurity and related issues in Missouri.
- Mobilize advocates for special purposes, including social media campaigns, legislative testimony, meetings with elected officials, etc.
- Maintain and update the Food Is Medicine Missouri website.
- Coordinate and conduct outreach designed to reach health policy and health care stakeholders to advance our food-is-medicine policy priorities.
- Coordinate logistics, develop materials and provide staff support for Food Is Medicine Missouri Coalition meetings.
- Advance strategies to educate and engage direct service providers, food pantry managers, program participants, advocates and other community members around issues related to food insecurity, especially food-is-medicine initiatives.
- Support the development and facilitation of new and innovative community engagement efforts.

Qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or protected veteran status.

- Assist with development of fact sheets, policy briefs, public comments, legislative testimony, white papers, and blog posts as necessary.
- Keep up with the latest trends, research and best practices in food-is-medicine, child nutrition and anti-poverty policy.
- Support the policy team with the implementation of other projects as needed.
- Coordinate with other OFS programs/departments, including Fresh Rx, Communications, Agency Relations, Community Nutrition, and Child Nutrition Programs on projects where appropriate.

Qualifications, Experience, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Required Qualifications

- Passion for the OFS mission and a commitment to racial and health equity.
- Team-oriented with a positive, collaborative, and flexible work style.
- Possess a flexible and growth-based mindset and actively seek out opportunities to learn.
- Strong organization and time management skills with an ability to prioritize tasks, meet deadlines, and adapt in a fast-paced environment.
- Experience working directly with community members from diverse backgrounds.
- Ability to establish positive interpersonal relationships with OFS team, partners, and stakeholders.
- Excellent written verbal and written communication skills.

Preferred Qualifications

- One to three years of relevant work experience in policy, advocacy, or grassroots organizing.
- Completion of a bachelor's degree in related field.
- Knowledge of SNAP, WIC or other safety net programs, especially Medicaid is strongly preferred.
- Experience with social media and web-based communication strategies and tactics.
- Strong interest in equitable access to food, nutrition, and healthcare particularly as it impacts maternal, family, and child health.

Special Requirements

- Willingness to work virtually and follow OFS COVID-19-related policies for work in the office.
- Travel may be required for meetings and conferences.
- Flexibility in working hours during the legislative session, after-hours, or weekend.
- Willingness to assist with other OFS duties as required or as assigned.

To Apply: Email a **cover letter and resume** to Sarah Ritter, Manager of Public Policy. No phone calls, please.

Applications received without cover letter and resume may not be considered.

sarah.ritter@operationfoodsearch.org

Location: 1644 Lotsie Boulevard, Overland, MO 63132

Salary: \$38,000 – \$42,000; Health Insurance; Dental Insurance, PTO; 401(k) matching

Qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or protected veteran status.