



For economic and racial justice

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Job Announcement: Friday, November 3, 2023

Position Title: Director, Legal Impact Network

Reports to: Vice President of Advocacy

Supervises: Staff Attorney, Legal Impact Network; Member Engagement Specialist

Location: Chicago, Illinois, preferred, but not required. Position is remote.

The Shriver Center on Poverty Law fights for racial and economic justice. Throughout our nearly 60-year history, we have secured hundreds of law and policy victories with and for people experiencing economic instability in Illinois and across the country.

Everything we do is powered by communities most affected by poverty. We litigate, shape local policy, and train and convene multi-state networks of lawyers, community leaders, and activists to advance opportunity for all — not just the few.

Our country is rife with laws and policies that systematically disadvantage certain groups while advantaging others based on their race, gender, and other facets of their identities. We believe laws and policies — and the institutions that apply them — should be designed to support people. Together, we are turning this ideal into reality.

We are building a future where all people, families, and future generations have equal dignity, respect, and power under the law. For more information, visit povertylaw.org.

In 2023, the Legal Impact Network — a network of 38 state-based legal advocacy organizations — completed a charter to provide structure to the network and identified priorities for joint advocacy and support. The Shriver Center is launching a new multi-year strategic plan next year.

Position Overview: The Shriver Center is seeking an experienced advocate to serve as director of the Legal Impact Network (LIN). The Director will lead efforts to address poverty and advance racial justice nationally, on a multi-state level, and in Illinois. LIN does multi-strategy systemic advocacy — primarily legislative advocacy, administrative advocacy, organizing, strategic communications, and litigation. The Shriver Center convenes and organizes LIN members for three main purposes:

1. Maintaining a peer network for LIN members to share strategies, expertise, and resources
2. Providing a platform for collaborative advocacy around common threats and opportunities across multiple states
3. Sharing best practices that create movements to create a nation free from racism and poverty

To carry out these purposes, LIN relies on these main activities:

1. Joint advocacy around a specific subject matter (e.g., public benefits) or advocacy tool (e.g., communications)
2. Bi-annual virtual or in-person convenings
3. Collaborative advocacy in the form of discrete projects, coordinated state-based campaigns, and joint federal advocacy
4. Trainings and webinars

LIN uses an explicit racial justice lens, with an emphasis on community-driven advocacy. The Director will advance campaigns and priority areas through strategy, campaign building, national coalition building, and other engagement with LIN members and other purpose-aligned organizations to ensure success. In this role, the Director will collaborate with the LIN staff, the Shriver Center's advocates, and staff from the Shriver Center's Racial Justice Institute and Network to advance efforts throughout the country and strengthen our Illinois advocacy with the wisdom and experience of our LIN partners.

Responsibilities:

- Provide strategic direction to LIN members' efforts to advance racial and economic justice across the country
- Work closely with other members of the Shriver Center's advocacy department and LIN members to develop and execute collaborative advocacy among network members, including special projects, coordinated state-based campaigns, and joint federal advocacy
- Supervise and support the growth of two LIN staff members, including a LIN staff attorney and member engagement specialist
- Convene and organize LIN advocates, including working groups, online forums, webinars, and in-person convenings
- Build relationships with LIN member organizations and create opportunities for members to build relationships with one another
- Identify opportunities to engage in and advance collaborative advocacy across multiple states, including legislative advocacy, administrative advocacy, and legal advocacy, such as litigation
- Periodically evaluate network health and member engagement through surveys and member check-ins
- Represent the Shriver Center and LIN in national coalitions, working groups, commissions, and task forces
- Partner with the development team in fundraising efforts for the Shriver Center including preparing grant proposals and reports for national foundations, attending grantee check-ins and meetings, and developing a team budget
- Travel to conferences, meetings, and advocacy sites as needed
- Participate in the internal planning, coordination, and administration of the Shriver Center through its committees and working groups
- Collaborate with other directors at the Shriver Center
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

- Juris doctorate preferred, but not required

- Strong communication and facilitation skills
- Ability to establish and maintain strong relationships with advocates across multiple states
- Experience with and demonstrated commitment to advocacy on poverty and racial justice issues in partnership with impacted communities
- Demonstrated ability to lead multi-strategy advocacy including organizing, legislative advocacy, litigation, administrative advocacy, and strategic communications
- Experience in legal services or other public interest law strongly preferred
- Experience in impact or legal service litigation a plus
- Experience with multi-state or national campaigns a plus
- Ability to travel as needed (estimated 15%)

Salary/Benefits: This full-time exempt position offers a competitive annual salary of \$107,456 to \$125,320 and a comprehensive benefits package.

Opening/Closing Date: Open until filled. The hiring committee will conduct an initial review of applications on November 17, 2023.

Applications: Send your resume, cover letter, three references, and a writing sample to hr@povertylaw.org and reference “LIN Director” in the subject line.

At the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, we know that a richly diverse mix of professionals makes organizations more effective. As such, we make demographic and experiential diversity a hallmark and priority of all our work.