

Catholic Charities of St. Louis

Director of Advocacy

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ST. LOUIS, a federation of eight agencies, has been helping people in need since 1912. In response to the teachings of Jesus Christ, our mission is to serve people in need, especially those who are poor and vulnerable; work to improve social conditions for all people in the community; and call members of the Church and community to do the same. In 2019, more than 107,000 people benefitted from our services, regardless of religion, age, gender, race or ethnicity.

The Director of Advocacy position will provide leadership for our public policy and advocacy work, working collaboratively with the Chief Development Officer, our President, Executive Leaders of the Eight Federated Agencies of Catholic Charities, board of directors, staff, the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and a contract lobbyist.

Primary areas of focus are:

1. In alignment with the Archdiocese of St. Louis, ensure all activities of the advocacy department, and those participating across the federation are in complete alignment with Catholic Social Teaching and the Catholic Church.
2. Oversee the Advocacy Council, comprised of agency leaders/executives or designated staff, CCSTL and agency board members. Hold bi-monthly meetings to review status on key initiatives and seek input on pressing items affecting our agencies/clients insuring efforts align with Catholic teaching. Work with the Advocacy Council to research, understand, and discuss community issues impacted by public policies.
3. Informed by the Leaders of the eight agencies of Catholic Charities of St. Louis, form annual public policy priorities to positively impact their work and their clients. Present public policy priorities to CCSTL Board for approval with the MI&A Committee.
4. Direct legislative and other activities of a contract lobbyist, including input in drafting legislation.
5. Serve as lead contact with the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) with regular communication and coordination with CCSTL representatives on MCC Public Policy Committee.
6. Publicly disseminate advocacy alerts as appropriate through available channels of communication, with approval from the CDO.
7. In collaboration and alignment with the Mission Integration Director co-lead the Mission Integration & Advocacy Committee of the CCSTL Board of Directors.
8. Plan and execute bi-monthly policy education sessions for CCSTL and federated agency Board of Directors, one of which is the Poverty Simulation.
9. Plan and execute the annual Catholic Charities 'Day at the Capitol' in partnership with Catholic Charities agencies across the state of Missouri.
10. Assist with planning annual meeting of Archbishop and Catholic legislators.
11. Develop and maintain relationships with CCUSA staff regarding federal policies.
12. Speak at parishes, schools and other community organizations about the work and advocacy efforts of CCSTL to promote awareness and engagement.

Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree required, Master's degree preferred in Political Science, Public Relations, Public Policy, Journalism, Mass Communication, or related field; Law degree a plus.
2. 3-5 years relevant and progressively responsible work experience in public policy advocacy, or equivalent experience in a related field.
3. In-depth knowledge of the nonprofit sector, particularly faith-based organizations.
4. Strong knowledge of state legislative budget process.
5. Strong computer skills, including proficiency in Microsoft Office. Experience with Voter Voice action alert platform or similar.
6. Valid driver's license and ability to travel occasionally – possibly overnight.
7. Incumbent must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. His/her private and public positions and values must be in full and complete agreement with those of Catholic Charities and with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

To apply, send a cover letter and resume with salary requirements to Les Lexow, Director Human Resources at llexow@ccstl.org.

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