

Job Description - Staff Attorney

Legal Council for Health Justice (Legal Council) seeks an enthusiastic attorney to work with our Homeless Outreach Program. The Homeless Outreach Program provides civil legal assistance to people who are experiencing homelessness (both sheltered and unsheltered), most of whom have chronic medical issues including mental illness and physical impairments resulting from chronic stress, adverse childhood experiences, and trauma exposure.

The staff attorney will focus on assisting individuals who are unable to work due to medical issues in qualifying for public benefits to increase and stabilize income, improve housing opportunities, and access medical and behavioral health care. Work will be performed on-site with Chicago area social services agencies and medical clinics and with outreach teams serving populations who are homeless as well as at our downtown office. Some remote work is also allowed.

About Legal Council

Founded in 1987, Legal Council is a non-profit law office that finds legal remedies for discrimination, disadvantage, and disparities in health equity and well-being across the lifespan of Illinoisans impacted by life-changing medical conditions.

Legal Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer: People of color, women, persons with disabilities, seniors, LGBTQ+ and Veterans are welcomed and strongly encouraged to apply. Legal Council believes that personnel diversity is an organizational strength and recognizes and values the intersectional identities that staff members bring to our organization. We are enriched by the diverse experiences, beliefs, and ways of thinking that employees of different backgrounds bring.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Provide legal representation on eligibility for public benefits including Social Security and SSI disability benefits, other Social Security and SSI eligibility issues, Medicaid, and SNAP;
- Assist in training of outside partner staff and the general public on the availability and eligibility criteria for the public benefits programs listed above.

- Coordinate and assist with management of on-site legal clinics and intake at social services and medical outreach sites; and
- Plan, implement, and document outreach and trainings for community partners.

Job Requirements:

All applicants must demonstrate a commitment to Legal Council's mission and have:

- J.D. degree and be admitted to the Illinois Bar or be eligible for admission through reciprocity, or be a new law school graduate who will take the Illinois Bar Exam in 2023;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Excellent organizational skills.

Spanish proficiency is a plus.

In addition, candidates should discuss any experience in the following areas in their cover letters:

- Social Security, Medicaid and other public benefits programs;
- Administrative hearing and litigation experience;
- General poverty law;
- Medical Legal Partnerships;
- Community Organizing;
- Working with people experiencing homelessness; and
- Other Relevant Experience as defined below.

Relevant experience includes not only professional advocacy on behalf of others, but personal experience with poverty, chronic illness, HIV, mental illness, racism and its consequences, public housing or other issues affecting our client population.

How to Apply: To apply, email a resume, cover letter, writing sample, and two professional references to:

Lisa Parsons, Legal Director, Homeless Outreach Program
job@legalcouncil.org

Salary and Benefits: Salary is commensurate with experience and based on agency salary scale (\$62,000 to \$72,000) depending on experience), with opportunities for advancement and career development. In addition, staff attorneys are potentially eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness based on employment with Legal Council.

In addition to the salary range listed, Legal Council offers a comprehensive benefits package that includes major medical, dental and vision; Generous Holiday and Vacation Paid time Off; Sick Paid Time Off; Traditional 401k/Roth 401k with 2% employer non-elective match.

Hybrid work is available. Employees are required to be on-site twice a week between Monday and Friday.

All Legal Council staff must show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or be granted a reasonable accommodation by the Executive Director due to a valid claim of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or a valid religious exemption pursuant to Title VII. Full COVID vaccination is defined as the two shot Moderna or Pfizer vaccine plus a booster or the Johnson & Johnson one-shot vaccine plus a booster.