



Position Opening

August 20, 2008

Public Interest Attorney (Attorney II)

The Public Health Institute (PHI) is a large non-profit public health organization conducting a broad range of public health research, training, and technical assistance programs in California, throughout the nation, and around the world. PHI is seeking a full time Public Interest Attorney for the Public Health Law & Policy program (PHLP). This position is located in Oakland, CA.

About PHLP:

Public Health Law and Policy (PHLP) focuses on improving the public's health by drawing on the expertise of an inter-disciplinary team of lawyers, urban planners, and public health professionals. Staff attorneys provide comprehensive training, technical assistance, and legal tools to advance public health policy. PHLP is currently involved in the following topic areas: tobacco control, obesity prevention and nutrition, land use and health, communicable disease, and school wellness policies. See www.phlaw.org for more information.

Position Description:

PHLP is seeking a staff attorney for the new National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity (NPLAN) which is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The childhood obesity epidemic is a public health issue of nearly unparalleled dimension. More than a third of children and adolescents in this country are overweight or obese, putting them at higher risk for a host of serious illnesses, including heart disease, stroke, asthma and certain types of cancer. Poor communities and communities of color are particularly vulnerable. In 2007, RWJF announced it would invest at least \$500 million over five years toward its goal of reversing the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015. As part of this initiative, NPLAN is dedicated to changing policies, environments and social norms to ensure children and families are able to make healthier choices.

This position will provide legal and policy support to an interdisciplinary network of experts focused on providing high-quality research and technical assistance materials to national audiences dedicated to eliminating childhood obesity. The target audiences for legal research and technical assistance include public health advocates, state and local health departments, city and county legal counsel and other key administrators, and elected officials. This is an excellent opportunity for an attorney interested in blending legal practice with community involvement to create cutting edge public health policies.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Drafting and analyzing local ordinances, state legislation, and other policies;
- Research and writing on a wide variety of legal and policy issues relevant to the childhood obesity epidemic;

- Providing technical assistance to policymakers and advocates interested in the childhood obesity epidemic;
- Participating in and presenting at trainings and conferences on childhood obesity issues;
- Collaborating with PHLP's other programs on specific projects as necessary.

Qualifications:

- JD required;
- Must be a current member of a State Bar (California Bar membership is not required);
- A minimum 5 years of significant experience practicing law with excellent references;
- Excellent legal research, oral/public speaking experience, and written communication skills are essential;
- Experience in working with one or more of the following constituencies: local government legal and non-legal staff, elected officials, community-based health organizations, public health departments, and city planners;
- Experience in any of the following legal fields is highly desirable: municipal law, federal and state constitutional law, tort law, land use law, and/or local financing law.
- Experience in ordinance or statutory drafting is highly desirable.
- Prior work experience in public health, public policy, or related field desired;
- Travel out of the area to relevant conferences and trainings is required including occasional multi-day trips out of state; and
- Ability to manage multiple priorities and work in a fast-paced office environment.

Compensation:

Annual salary range is \$71k to 89k DOE. PHI offers a generous benefits package including medical, dental, vision, short/long term disability insurance, life insurance, 403b (tax sheltered annuity) and partial subsidy of public transportation cost. For more information about PHI's benefits, please visit www.phi.jobs.

Please send a cover letter, resume, list of references, and a pertinent writing sample by September 20, 2008 to:

Public Health Institute
555 – 12th Street, 10th Floor
Department #125, Oakland, CA 94607-4046
Or email resumes to: jobs@phi.org including Dept #125 in the subject line
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