



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Center for

# Hunger-Free Communities

## Job Description:

### Policy & Communications Fellow

### Drexel School of Public Health - Center for Hunger-Free Communities

The Center for Hunger-Free Communities founded in 2004, is a research, advocacy, and policy center of the Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health that engages in multi-faceted research and action with the goal of developing innovative, empirically-tested solutions to the challenges of hunger and economic insecurity.

## Our Mission

At the Center we address hunger in all its forms by engaging in partnership with families, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders to:

- Find solutions to hunger and poverty based on science and the human experience;
- Report on the health consequences of hunger and poverty to ensure accountability and enable action;
- Engage those who have experience with poverty as full partners in developing research, policies, and programs that promote health;
- Establish and support opportunities to build peace, nourishment, and a sense of shared community through our research, testimony, and action.

We are committed to freedom and justice by fighting against all forms of oppression, exclusion, and discrimination—including but not limited to racism, classism, sexism, transphobia/homophobia, and ableism—in the world, in our communities, and in ourselves.

## Position Summary

The Center seeks a highly-motivated individual to be the Policy & Communications Fellow. This Fellow, under the supervision of the Director, will assist the Center in communicating its work to the press, public, and policymakers.

## Programs to Support:

**Witnesses to Hunger** is a groundbreaking advocacy program featuring the voices and photography of parents and caregivers of young children who have experienced hunger and poverty firsthand. Their photographs and narratives have been exhibited throughout the country, offering living testimony to the need for legislation that eliminates poverty and hunger in the United States. Members of Witnesses to Hunger work to encourage civic engagement in their own communities and in neighborhoods across the country.

**Children's HealthWatch** is a multi-site study that assesses how public policies and economic insecurity affect the health and development of very young children. The Center coordinates the Philadelphia site of Children's HealthWatch, a network of pediatricians, public health researchers,

and children's health policy experts. Our findings help policymakers and the public better understand the social and economic factors that affect children's health so they can make well-informed policy decisions that give all children equal opportunities for healthy, successful lives.

**Building Wealth and Health Network** is a self-empowerment program that provides matched savings accounts and financial education through peer support. The program is built into the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in Philadelphia. The Network is a peer-oriented asset-building model that helps families break the cycle of poverty. Ultimately, the Network has the potential to alter the structure of the United States public welfare system by empowering families to build their assets, social networks, and career success.

**EAT (Everyone at the Table) Café** is a nonprofit, pay-what-you-can café that nourishes, educates, and unites community in a welcoming environment. EAT Café is a collaboration between the Center for Hunger- Free Communities, the Center for Hospitality and Sport Management at Drexel University, the Vetri Community Partnership, and the West Philadelphia community.

### **Key Roles and Responsibilities:**

#### *Communications*

- Assist in translating the Center's research into policy relevant materials.
- Work with the Center and program leadership to ensure consistent and effective messaging and materials.
- Draft emails to be sent to the Center's email list through Constant Contact or similar tool.
- Update and create content for the Center's website, including drafting content for the Center's blog.
- Take a lead on the Center's engagement with social media, including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.
- Support the Center in the promotion of and preparation for events, meetings, speaking engagements, etc.

#### *Policy*

- Assist the Director in conducting research on and analysis of current policies identified.
- Draft policy briefs or factsheets to help educate legislators about the realities of poverty and hunger.
- Represent the Center at meetings with partners and coalitions

#### *Programmatic Support*

- Provide support to the Witnesses to Hunger team as it transitions the program into its next phase. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Supporting the digital and physical archiving of materials
  - Participating as a team member in internal program meetings, helping to draft agendas, take minutes and prepare written materials.
  - Help to organize and run meetings with members, partners and other stakeholders.

Other Duties As Assigned (including but not limited to):

- Help to support the general work at the Center as the need arises.

### **Qualifications**

Applicant must have

- Excellent interpersonal, writing, networking, and computer skills
- Excellent communication, facilitation, and teaching skills
- Superior organization skills
- Experience with social media platforms
- Demonstrated interest in poverty and hunger
- Motivated individual who enjoys working in a team environment
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment and handle multiple projects simultaneously
- Ability to work both independently and in collaboration with others
- Experience working with people of diverse backgrounds and levels of education
- Flexibility and sense of humor
- Good listening skills

#### Additional Information

The Center employs the Sanctuary Model® in its implementation of programs. The Sanctuary Model® is an evidence-supported, trauma-informed practice designed to facilitate the development of structures, processes, and behaviors on the part of staff, clients and the community-as-a-whole that can respond to the wounds of traumatic experiences and extended exposure to adversity of program participants. Applicants for this position should have some knowledge of and/or interest in learning about this organizational culture model.