



Director of Policy and Advocacy

Kids Win Missouri is looking for a dynamic and experienced leader in children’s policy who has a strong commitment to ensuring that Missouri’s public policies create opportunities for all Missouri children and enables them to achieve their full potential.

About Kids Win Missouri

Kids Win Missouri is a non-partisan, statewide coalition representing child well-being practitioners, advocates, and parents. Its work spans early childhood development, education, health, child safety and economic security of families. Formed in 2013 as the Missouri Children’s Leadership Council, the organization has quickly fostered a reputation as a respected and influential voice on policies impacting children and families in Missouri. The organization rebranded as Kids Win Missouri in 2017. Its work in educating policymakers and the public and promoting the well-being of Missouri children has contributed to the creation of the state Office of Childhood, tens of millions of dollars of new annual funding for Pre-K education, raising the age of adult prosecution, increasing access to quality early childhood education and protecting and securing additional federal funding for critical children’s programs. An Executive Director and an active Board of Directors lead the organization.

About the Position

The position includes paid vacation, sick days and health benefits. The annual salary for the position ranges from \$70,000-80,000. The new Director of Policy and Advocacy will work remotely and can be located anywhere in Missouri. The Director of Policy and Advocacy reports to the Executive Director.

This is a full-time position that may, depending on where you reside in Missouri, involve extensive overnight travel during the months of January through May. Additionally, the position may require long days and nights during the months of January through May. Throughout the year, the position requires occasional overnight travel and some evening hours. From June through December, the position has flexible work hours. As travel is necessary for the requirements of the position, the individual selected is expected to possess and maintain a valid driver’s license. Physical demands of the position are typically those of a standard office environment, but also include working from non-office locations.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Serve as the organization's primary representative with state and federal policymakers and before legislative and administrative proceedings
- Cultivate policymaker champions and build support among policymakers for the organization's policy priorities
- Lead collaborative efforts with partners to establish Kids Win Missouri's annual policy priorities on childhood care and education, health and mental health, family economic security, child welfare, and youth education and development.
- Develop advocacy goals and strategies and lead efforts to execute
- Monitor and track legislation pertinent to child well-being issues
- Testify at hearings, meet with policymakers and facilitate meetings with Kids Win Missouri stakeholders and policymakers
- Facilitate issue-specific coalitions including Kids Win Missouri's Youth Homelessness Coalition, Kinship Caregiving Policy Subcommittee, and Child Development Account Coalition
- Participate in coalition meetings on relevant issues
- Lead weekly calls to update stakeholders during the state legislative session
- Develop a weekly email update containing a summary of the week's news relating to policy and systems impacting children and families
- Engage stakeholders on issues impacting child well-being in Missouri
- Present at organizational and community meetings on the work of the organization
- Stay abreast of research on issues that impact children and their families and develop relationships with state and national experts
- Represent the organization in media interviews on children's policy matters

Desired Education, Experience, and Skills

- Bachelor's Degree in public policy, public affairs, social work or related field
- At least 5 years of experience in children's policy issues, government affairs, advocacy
- Experience in coalition, partnership, grass tops, and grass roots efforts
- Knowledge of Missouri's political landscape desired
- Understanding of the impact of policy on children and families
- Writes, speaks, and listens effectively
- Takes initiative and solves problems
- Possesses interpersonal skills and ability to work with diverse stakeholders
- Is flexible and willing to adapt in a fast-paced and ever-changing environment
- Understands advocacy strategies and coalition/partnership work

Application Information

To apply, please email a cover letter that articulates why you are the best candidate for this position and a resume to Abigail Walden at awalden@kidswinmissouri.org. The position will remain open until filled.

Kids Win Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, age, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religious or political affiliation, disability, veteran status, or any other classification considered discriminatory under applicable law.