ABOUT MIRIAM’S KITCHEN

Miriam’s Kitchen works to end chronic homelessness in Washington, DC through high quality meals, on-site social services, street outreach, permanent supportive housing, and advocacy.

We are committed not only to meeting the most immediate needs of our neighbors, but also to advocating for long-term systems change to prevent and end homelessness across our community. Our Advocacy team works to increase local funding for permanent housing, improve broken systems at the root cause of homelessness, and elevate the leadership of individuals with lived experience.

ABOUT THE POSITION

Miriam’s Kitchen seeks an Advocacy Specialist to lead and manage advocacy efforts that build power and collective leadership among individuals experiencing homelessness. This will include stand-alone initiatives as well as the integration of guest leadership into the The Way Home Campaign (an advocacy campaign to end chronic homelessness in D.C. that is led my Miriam’s Kitchen), and our broader systems change work.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the Advocacy Specialist may include (but are not limited to):

- Managing projects critical to advocating in partnership with our guests, such as:
  - Partnering with and supporting the People for Fairness Coalition, an organization dedicated to ending housing instability for individuals in the Nation’s Capital through Advocacy, Outreach and Peer Mentoring.
  - Managing the Miriam’s Kitchen Speaker’s Bureau, which provides opportunities for people who have experienced homelessness to support one another through and participate in a curriculum of their own choosing that often includes storytelling, peer sharing, learning, and skill building activities.
  - Ensuring that people with lived experience can participate in advocacy related decision making at Miriam’s Kitchen and The Way Home Campaign
  - Elevating the leadership, expertise, experience, and perspective of individuals with lived experience into all facets of MK’s advocacy work
  - Co-leading Studio for Change, a joint program of Miriam’s Kitchen’s Advocacy and Studio departments, that uses a popular education model to facilitate collective learning and action (note: Studio for Change is temporarily paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

- Developing and strengthening partnerships and relationships of accountability with organizations that are led by people who have experienced housing instability as well as organizations that are led by people of color.
Learning about and understanding the systemic barriers to ending homelessness, including discrimination and a severe lack of affordable housing

Administrative duties as appropriate

QUALIFICATIONS
Miriam’s Kitchen seeks a highly motivated, enthusiastic leader who is dedicated to ending chronic homelessness, is a skilled and engaging communicator, and has knowledge of the homeless services system.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Broad interpersonal skills and the ability to build relationships with individuals and organizations from diverse backgrounds
- Understanding of the structural and systemic causes of homelessness
- Participatory group facilitation skills
- Understanding of and willingness to examine how race, power and privilege impact our work
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Strong attention to detail
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Openness to feedback and ability to manage up and across departments

Experience
- At least 2 years of experience (education and/or work experience may be substituted)
- Community organizing, advocacy campaign, policy, social work, or related experience preferred
- Demonstrated understanding of politics and the legislative process, particularly within the District government preferred

Benefits
Miriam’s Kitchen is proud to offer comprehensive benefits that support the continued health and wellbeing of our team including: 100% employer-paid medical, dental, and vision insurance; generous medical coverage for dependents; 100% employer-paid short term disability, long term disability, and life insurance; employer retirement contributions; generous annual paid leave, and annual professional development funds for all full and part-time team members.

To Apply: Please submit your resume and cover letter to jobs1@miriamskitchen.org with “ADVOCACY SPECIALIST” in the subject line.

Miriam’s Kitchen values diversity in thought and experience and is committed to assembling a diverse workplace. People of color, people with lived experience in the issues MK works on, veterans, and LGBTQIA persons are strongly encouraged to apply.