



vision into action

Public Interest Attorney: Housing Law

June 2011

About PHLP

Public Health Law & Policy (PHLP) pioneers innovative ways to leverage law and policy to improve public health. We provide practical legal and policy tools – including model laws and policies, fact sheets, FAQs, and toolkits, as well as tailored trainings and one-on-one consultation – to help make healthy communities the norm, not the exception.

PHLP specializes in laws and policies that affect chronic disease with a particular focus on addressing health disparities in low income and communities of color. We are breaking new ground by creating land use, economic development, and redevelopment tools that can reshape urban and rural communities to improve public health outcomes through the planning and development process. In many communities, the healthy choice is often not the easy choice – and we see law and policy as critical tools to ensure that *all* communities have access to safe, vibrant, and healthy environments. For more information, visit our website at www.phlpnet.org.

Position Description

PHLP is seeking an attorney with demonstrated experience in housing law and policy to launch a new line of work on improving the housing stock and ensuring *safe and healthy housing* in low-income communities throughout the nation.* The attorney will work with local housing leaders and advocates from housing and health agencies; nonprofit housing developers, tenants rights, and landlord organizations; low-income housing lenders and fiscal intermediaries, elected officials, legal aid organizations, and municipal attorneys seeking to develop local policies to create healthier and environmentally sustainable housing. The position will direct a newly funded national effort. The position also will provide support to communities funded through The Kresge Foundation's healthy and safe homes initiative. In this capacity, the individual will complete an analysis for each community of state and local housing codes and statutes, existing policies related to healthy homes, and provide detailed recommendations for making appropriate changes in codes, policies, and statutes to promote the implementation of healthy homes in these communities.

The attorney will conduct research and draft model language to support community-based policy development at the local, state and federal level. The successful candidate should have strong

* A healthy home is sited, designed, built, renovated, and maintained in ways that support the health of all residents. Specific features that constitute healthy housing include structural and safety aspects of the home (i.e., how the home is designed, constructed, and maintained; the presence or absence of safety devices), quality of indoor air and water, and the presence or absence of chemicals. Individual resident behavior, such as installing and maintaining smoke alarms, implementing smoke-free rules, and controlling or eliminating hazards such as lead paint and radon gas also are important aspects of healthy and safe home environments. The surrounding neighborhood and community are also important aspects of healthy homes.

leadership skills and the ability and desire to move this project from conceptualization to implementation. As such it is expected that the attorney will grow sufficient funding over a 3-year grant period to support a team of housing experts that will integrate into PHLP's public health, land use, economic development and redevelopment efforts to address chronic disease and other health issues. The position is based in Oakland, California.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Provide technical support to communities engaged in The Kresge Foundation's healthy and safe homes initiative
- Drafting and analyzing local ordinances and state legislation
- Drafting documents such as fact sheets, checklists, FAQs, resolutions and internal memos related to model ordinances, state legislation, and other policies
- Providing technical assistance to policymakers and advocates about existing and proposed policies related to healthy housing
- Participating in and presenting at trainings, webinars, and conferences
- Researching and writing on a wide variety of legal and policy issues relevant to creating healthy environments
- Collaborating with government agencies and other organizations engaged in these issues to share data and analysis and to maximally leverage limited resources
- Collaborating with PHLP's other programs on specific projects as necessary

This is an excellent opportunity for an attorney interested in blending legal practice with developing cutting edge public health policies.

Requirements:

- JD; must be a member of a state bar and licensed to practice law in the United States;
- A masters degree in public health, public administration, city planning or public policy desired;
- A minimum of five years of experience in housing law is required;
- Experience in any of the following fields is desired: municipal law, economic development, redevelopment, landlord/tenant law, fair housing, disability law, real estate, utilities, storm water, public works, impact fees, subdivision codes, climate change laws, policy incentive structures;
- Experience working with community based organizations dedicated to social change;
- Excellent legal research, public speaking, and written communication skills with demonstrated attention to detail;
- Ability to translate complex legal concepts into plain language for a lay audience;
- Ability to manage multiple priorities and work in a fast-paced office environment;
- Ability to work independently and take personal initiative;
- Experience supervising staff;
- Experience leading programs and/or developing new programs;
- Ability to participate as a member of cross-functional teams;
- Experience working with one or more of the following constituencies is desired: local government legal and non-legal staff, elected officials, community-based health organizations, public health departments, and housing agencies;
- Experience in drafting ordinances, statutes, and regulations;
- Prior work experience in public health, public policy, public education, or related field a plus;
- Travel to relevant conferences and trainings is required including multi-day trips out of state;
- Excellent computer skills, including Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.

Compensation

This is a full-time position. Salary range is \$75,000 - \$92,000 per year. PHLP offers a generous benefits package including PTO, medical, dental, vision, and long term disability insurance, life insurance, tax sheltered annuity and a flex spend plan for medical and childcare expenses.

How to apply:

Send a cover letter, resume, list of references, and a pertinent writing sample via e-mail to: **jobs@phlpnet.org**. Please include “**Healthy Housing Attorney**” in the subject line of the e-mail.

Applications must be received by Monday, July 18th. Incomplete applications will not be considered. No phone calls please.

We are proud to be an EEO/AA Employer.