

Education Organizer (Richmond)

About the Legal Aid Justice Center

LAJC is a nationally-recognized anti-poverty non-profit committed to battling poverty and injustice through individual legal representation, group and class action litigation, community organizing, policy advocacy, and media relations. From its offices in Charlottesville, Richmond, Petersburg, and Falls Church, LAJC is a fierce advocate for low-income clients and communities in Central and Northern Virginia, and its work broadly impacts the entire state. Just in the past year, our team of attorneys and organizers won a class-wide injunction ordering healthcare reforms in a women's prison, secured a national settlement providing new avenues for relief to over 400 traumatized asylum-seekers whose children were taken from them at the border, worked successfully in partnership with community leaders to demand police accountability, and won major legislative reforms regulating school policing.

Founded in 1967, LAJC provides services under four key program areas: Civil Rights & Racial Justice, Economic Justice, JustChildren, and Immigrant Advocacy. LAJC boldly tackles issues of systemic injustice and aims to raise public and policymaker awareness of some of the most pressing challenges facing low-income Virginia residents. For more information, visit www.justice4all.org.

About the JustChildren Program

LAJC relies on a range of strategies to ensure the Commonwealth's most vulnerable young people receive the services and supports they need to lead successful lives in their communities. The JustChildren Program's primary focuses are education and juvenile justice, but the work sometimes touches on other child-serving systems such as mental health and foster care.

About the Position

LAJC seeks a full-time community organizer to join our Richmond office. Along with a team of attorneys and policy experts, the organizer will work to mobilize individuals and communities across Virginia to take action as part of LAJC's education equity campaign, which seeks full and fair funding for Virginia's public schools and high-quality educational opportunities for every child in the Commonwealth. Responsibilities include:

- Engaging in outreach and public education around education equity issues with affected communities and allies, including leadership development among youth and families in low-income communities
- Identifying and developing leadership among low-income youth and families and supporting community groups to win policy change
- Information gathering regarding education issues of importance in low-income communities across Virginia
- Identifying supporters through petitioning, attending community events, and other methods of outreach
- Building a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations committed to demanding equity in education
- Mobilizing people to attend community events and actions, including government meetings, lobby days, campaign rallies, town hall events, and listening sessions

- Required Qualifications**
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills
 - Demonstrated experience working with individuals and/or communities impacted by social, economic, and racial injustice
 - Demonstrated concern for the needs and rights of low-income children
 - Strong commitment to social, economic, and racial justice
 - Ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team
 - Access to reliable transportation, and willingness to travel statewide occasionally and to LAJC's other offices
 - Willingness to work a flexible schedule that will include evening and weekend events
 - Sense of humor

- Preferred Qualifications**
- Familiarity with school funding and education equity issues
 - Familiarity with Virginia's state legislative and budget processes
 - Diverse economic, social, and/or cultural experiences
 - Experience with organizing or advocacy specifically around education justice
 - Comfort with technology, social media, and data analysis
 - Ability to communicate in Spanish or another language is desirable but not required

Location LAJC's Richmond office

Start Date August 2019

Salary The salary range is \$35,000 to \$65,000 based on a formal salary scale that depends on years of relevant experience.

- Benefits**
- Generous leave
 - Excellent family health insurance
 - 403(b) pension plan

Application Instructions Email a cover letter, resume, and three references to Rachael Deane, Legal Director of LAJC's JustChildren Program, at hr@justice4all.org. The cover letter should highlight experience working with low-income communities and any experience in organizing for change and reform, particularly on education issues. The cover letter should also highlight any specialized skills, such as fluency in a second language or technology skills.

The position will be open until filled, but application review will begin on **July 12, 2019**. Questions? Contact Rachael Deane at rachael@justice4all.org or 804-521-7304.

The Legal Aid Justice Center is an equal opportunity employer, committed to inclusive hiring and dedicated to diversity in our work and staff. We strongly encourage candidates of all identities, experiences, and communities to apply. The Legal Aid Justice Center is committed to strengthening the voices of our low-income clients, working in collaboration with community partners, and rooting out the inequities that keep people in poverty. We strive to take on the issues that have broad impact on our client communities and to be responsive to client input. Recognizing the particular impact of racism on our clients and staff, we devote special attention to dismantling racial injustice. All applicants must be dedicated to working in and sustaining an environment that enables staff and clients to feel empowered, valued, respected, and safe. In reviewing applications, we look for evidence that applicants have experience and/or thoughtfulness in working with traditionally marginalized populations.