

Position Description

Health Policy Attorney/Advocate

The National Senior Citizens Law Center seeks a Health Policy Attorney or Advocate for its Washington, DC office. The chosen candidate will join a highly energetic health team that advocates on issues related to preserving and strengthening critical health benefits programs that benefit low-income older adults (Medicaid, Medicare, long term services and supports). The Attorney/Advocate will be actively involved in the creation and implementation of NSCLC's health policy agenda and will advocate on issues both with federal and state agencies, through collaboration with other legal and aging advocacy groups and input from legal services advocates nationwide.

Background

Since 1972, the National Senior Citizens Law Center has championed the independence and well-being of the elderly poor and persons with disabilities, especially women, people of color and other disadvantaged minorities. Our mission is protect of the rights of low-income older adults, people who historically have had little or no voice in the making of public policy, in dealing with government agencies or in accessing the courts.

Our staff works tirelessly to preserve and strengthen programs like Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security and SSI, programs that allow older adults to live with dignity and independence, free from the worry that poverty or the lack of health care can bring.

Our health team seeks to ensure that low-income older adults understand and have access to affordable health care benefits and that more people receive long-term care at home and in the community. Currently, the team is focused on:

- Expanding the availability of [home and community based services](#) as an alternative to nursing homes or other institutions
- Breaking down [health disparities](#) including making health benefit information and other government publications available to those with limited English proficiency
- Championing better coordination of care for the nine million people who have both Medicare and Medicaid ([dual eligibles](#))
- Protecting [Medicaid](#) benefits through administrative advocacy and litigation

To achieve its objectives, the team uses administrative and legislative advocacy and litigation as well as provides education and counseling to local advocates who work with older adults.

The health team focuses on key federal programs including Medicare, Medicare Part D, and Medicaid as well as state-specific programs like California's Medi-Cal and In Home Services and Supports (IHSS) programs. In addition, we work on the financing, regulation and delivery of long term services and supports including assisted living, home and community based services, and nursing homes. Finally, the health team works closely with NSCLC's [Federal Rights Project](#) to ensure access to the courts for program beneficiaries and to protect the health reform law from state challenges

Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be responsible for assisting in the prioritization and advancement of NSCLC's health policy agenda in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. Some travel will be required.

- Contribute to the development, analysis and implementation of NSCLC advocacy work plans and strategy
- Participate in coalition meetings, policy briefings, conferences and other events relevant to NSCLC's policy agenda
- Establish and maintain relationships with outside entities such as other national or local legal groups, aging network members, state-based advocates
- Advance NSCLC policy objectives through contact with staff of state and federal agencies and/or members of Congress or their staff as needed
- Analyze and monitor relevant state and federal legislative and regulatory activity
- Draft comments for submission to state and federal regulators on proposed rules of interest
- Prepare position papers, issue briefs, letters, written testimony, news items and informational alerts
- Work with communications to create media and/or social media or other appropriate strategies to advance policy objectives
- Respond to queries and requests for help from local advocates

Requirements

- A J.D. or Master's degree, preferably with a political science or health policy emphasis
- 3-7 years of experience working for a consumer, legal, association or other non-profit in a similar capacity

- Thorough understanding of both national and state legislative and regulatory processes
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Attention to detail and follow-through
- Self-starter with proven organizational and time management skills.
- Capacity to manage multiple projects simultaneously.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with demonstrated ability to work as part of a team and build external relationships
- Effective speaking and presentation skills

Desired

- Washington, DC-based experience in health policy, especially in Medicare, Medicaid or home and community based services
- Passion for the poor and the aged, with a desire to provide assistance to underserved populations
- Experience partnering with organizations serving diverse populations and/or working with communities of color

National Senior Citizens Law Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer. NSCLC particularly encourages applications from members of minority groups, women, and others whose background may contribute to more effective representation of low-income people and underserved communities.

To Apply: Send cover letter, résumé, one original writing sample, and three professional references to: NSCLC, 1444 Eye St. NW, Suite 1100, Wash. D.C. 20005; or send it to Kuku Smith, ksmith@nsclc.org. No calls please.