Safety Net Policy Advocate (Louisiana Budget Project)

The Louisiana Budget Project seeks someone to lead our research into clients' experiences of safety-net programs, and advocate for policy improvements that reduce barriers to program access for Louisianans. This is an exciting opportunity for someone with top-notch research, analysis and writing skills, a deep familiarity with government safety-net programs, and a desire to strengthen these programs by elevating the voices of people who receive public benefits. The successful candidate will have a commitment to advancing racial and economic equity, strong interpersonal skills, and experience in public policy research and analysis. Lived experience with safety-net programs a plus.

The Louisiana Budget Project is an independent, 501c(3) nonprofit research and advocacy organization that monitors and reports on policies that affect low- to moderate-income Louisianans. We work collaboratively with communities and partner organizations to inform policy debates across a wide range of areas – including state budget, revenue, social and economic issues – with an eye to reducing poverty, promoting racial equity and widespread economic prosperity that allows all citizens to reach their highest potential.

Primary functions and tasks:

- Conduct qualitative research into public benefit recipients' experiences with Louisiana's safety net programs (for example, focus groups, surveys, longform interviews, etc.).
- Produce public-facing advocacy materials illustrating safety-net client experiences and advancing policy recommendations (for example, reports, briefs, and blog posts).
- Work with state and national partners and the Safety Net Initiative team at LBP to develop detailed recommendations for strengthening Louisiana's safety net programs. Develop and execute advocacy plans for putting those recommendations into practice.
- Build and maintain relationships with organizations around the state that serve safety-net clients.
- Help foster and maintain a welcoming and inclusive environment at LBP for all individuals with regards to diversity, which may include geography, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, gender or age.

Secondary functions and tasks:

- Assist in coordination and planning of meetings and events.
- Assist with developing communications strategy and messaging.

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Required education, experience and skills:

- Bachelor's degree plus at least two years' post-graduate work experience.
- Excellent written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to meet deadlines, solve problems and juggle multiple tasks.
- Strong commitment to applying a racial equity lens to policy work.

Strongly Preferred:

- Experience conducting qualitative or journalistic research or with research or projects involving interviews or focus groups; OR, lived experience with safety net programs in Louisiana or another U.S. State or territory.
- Bachelors or post-graduate degree in public health, public policy, sociology, or anthropology, or commensurate experience at a state agency, nonprofit or in the private sector.
- Familiarity with Louisiana's political and public policy environment.
- Familiarity with safety net programs (can be through lived experience).
- Familiarity with the ways that research, communications, and outreach work together to shape public policy.
- Willingness and ability to travel throughout Louisiana.

Additional information:

- This is a full-time position that reports to the Director of Safety Net Initiatives.
- The salary range for this position is $50,000 - $58,000 per year, depending on experience and education.
- To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, and two writing samples to jobs@labudget.org by Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, with "Safety Net Policy Advocate" in the subject line.

The Louisiana Budget Project is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, religious or political affiliation, disability, and any other classification considered discriminatory under applicable law.