



## **Position Title: Fellow, Juvenile Justice-Child Welfare (12 months)**

### **About Us**

Children First (formerly Public Citizens for Children & Youth, PCCY) is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives and chances of children through thoughtful and informed advocacy. Children First is a fast-paced child advocacy organization that uses research, people power, and coalition building to create the momentum for reform of public policies that enable more children to grow up healthy, well-educated, and ready to take the reins of their communities.

### **Position Summary**

Children First is seeking an outgoing individual with good organizational skills to support a 12-month effort focused on strengthening and expanding our statewide juvenile justice and child welfare advocacy efforts by supporting the organization of a series of convenings across the state of Pennsylvania for stakeholders, and the development of communications materials and proposed policy changes.

### **Key Duties**

- **Outreach and Engagement** – Organize and execute up to four regional convenings to promote engagement and coordination across the diverse geography of Pennsylvania. Each planned convening will build a vision for the future of juvenile justice in Pennsylvania, both from a statewide and regional lens.
- **Relationship Development and Management** – Support development of a coalition strategy to build and maintain ongoing relationship with system-impacted youth and parents and youth and parent organizers.
- **Communications** – Develop and disseminate communications materials, including marketing materials for convenings and broader advocacy materials for use by coalition members to advance 2025-2026 policy goals.
- **Facilitation** – In collaboration with Policy Director, provide additional convening support to statewide juvenile justice coalition by co-facilitating meetings and other events, supporting development of meeting agendas and minutes, and sending all-member communications.

- **Identification of Policy Priorities and Strategy** – Partner with stakeholders, including parents, to identify state- and local-level policy changes that will decrease child placements and promote child and family well-being. This includes a focus on foster care prevention, support for children and families impacted by foster care, reduction of congregate care placements, and promoting the safety and well-being of children in residential facilities.
- **Policy Brief** – Assist in the development of a child welfare policy brief that will contain background information on the current state of child welfare systems, as well as proposed reforms to the child welfare system

### **Qualifications, Education, Experience & Skills**

- Knowledge (to include professional and/or lived expertise) of policy and practices in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems, including familiarity with statutes, regulations, practices and operational systems.
- Experience coordinating events, including logistics, development of agendas, engaging dynamic speakers, and conducting marketing and outreach activities.
- Written and oral communication skills, including meeting facilitation and public speaking, and proficiency with social media.
- Experience maintaining and motivating coalitions to achieve high-level goals
- Detail oriented with the ability to collect, interpret, and simplify large datasets
- Advanced degree (MA/MS, JD, Ph.D) preferred, but will consider current graduate students.

### **Important Skills**

- Ability to collaborate with others in a hybrid work environment
- Ability and desire to work in a bi-partisan manner
- Works well under pressure while prioritizing and managing multiple projects
- Willingness and ability to travel around the State to meet with partners and lawmakers
- Ability to participate in events and meetings outside of normal business hours, typically 2-3 times a week in the evening, and 1-2 weekends a month.
- Proficient in Excel, Word, PowerPoint and social media platforms
- Driver's license and background clearances for working with children

**Reports to:** Vulnerable Youth Policy Director

**Salary:** \$65,000 with full benefits

**Apply:** Resume and cover letter to [info@childrenfirstpa.org](mailto:info@childrenfirstpa.org).