Western Massachusetts Organizer

JALSA is looking for a part-time Western Mass based community organizer. JALSA, a membership based social justice organization, is devoted to the defense of civil rights, the preservation of constitutional liberties, and the passionate pursuit of social, economic, environmental, and racial justice for all people.

Forty former board members of the American Jewish Congress (New England Region) founded JALSA in 2001 to act on their Jewish values through the pursuit of social justice.

JALSA focuses mostly on state legislative campaigns, in relationship and coalition with [other] local grassroots organizations, and, as the MA affiliate of national Jewish organization Bend the Arc, at times activates our MA base on key national campaigns as well.

JALSA uses many approaches to accomplish its mission, including advocacy, community organizing, education, amicus briefs and legal strategies, and coalition building.

In 2017, a small group of committed Jewish activists in the Pioneer Valley formed JALSA West.

JALSA West now has a mailing list of over 250 people, has developed relationships with local synagogues, rabbis, and Jewish activists, as well as (non-Jewish/non-religious, and some interfaith) local grassroots organizations. We have hosted events with synagogues, unions, and grassroots organizations, informing, organizing, and activating Jewish community on important campaigns such public education, economic justice, and healthcare access.

The JALSA West Community Organizer manages and helps realize the visions of our Western MA steering committee of core volunteers (monthly meetings and regular communication), continues to build and activate a base in Western MA Jewish community, and continues to develop
relationships with other local grassroots organizations. Guided by JALSA’s values and campaigns and priorities developed by JALSA board, staff, and JALSA West Steering Committee, the organizer coordinates JALSA West’s Jewish community for action, in relationship with synagogues and other local communities & organizations.

**Responsibilities**

**Develop strategy and tactics/campaign work**

- Exercise independent judgment to meet campaign goals
- Develop creative campaign tactics and implement strategic plans
- Plan work and create work plans and structures for volunteers and local group leaders to carry our campaigns to advance JALSA priorities
- Plan and run/manage Jewish community specific campaign events and other strategic pieces

**Build Relationships and Organization**

- Work closely and effectively with the JALSA West Steering Committee
- Have structured conversations and interactions with local group leaders including Jewish communal and spiritual leaders and activists to advance organizational goals
- Encourage people to take action and to take ownership of their local groups
- Assess group leaders and activists; identify and develop leaders
- Debrief and reflect; engage in critical analysis
- Create a culture of accountability, urgency, warmth and hope in all interactions with local group leaders, volunteers, and other staff
- Identify potential JALSA members and volunteers, develop relationships with them through 1:1’s and follow up, recruit them for volunteer roles and actions
- Work with JALSA office staff & steering committee to run membership drives, expand membership base, and plan and host fundraising events

**Volunteer management**

- Effectively plan and delegate work
Manage time and resources to maximize organizational impact
Coordinate the work of volunteers and group leaders; provide guidance and mentorship

Qualifications

- One or more years of organizing experience for a political campaign, community, or advocacy organization
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Outstanding leadership qualities and the ability to inspire and connect with Jewish social justice activists and community leaders.
- A demonstrated commitment to meeting high standards and a history of getting things done even in the face of obstacles.
- Proven success developing relationships and building a base to support a cause.
- The ability to master a complicated political landscape quickly and thoroughly.
- Demonstrated ability to break down large projects into smaller discrete tasks that can be distributed to multiple volunteer leaders who then feel ownership over their piece of work.
- The ability and willingness to work some nights and weekends (schedule is flexible).
- Experience planning programs and facilitating large and small meetings.
- A sense of humor, a passion for social justice and making positive change in the world, and a genuine commitment to working in a collaborative team setting.
- Ability to work with volunteers to develop their skills in communicating through social media platforms
- Ability to be in touch with colleagues and supervisors remotely through email, phone calls, Zoom and other technology
- Ability to travel to meetings throughout the Springfield/Longmeadow and Amherst/Northampton areas

Also Highly Desired:

- Familiarity with Jewish cultural norms and navigating Jewish institutions.
Reporting Relationships

- This position reports directly to JALSA Lead Organizer in the Boston JALSA office
- This position works directly with the JALSA West Steering Committee to carry out JALSA campaigns.

JALSA is an equal opportunity employer. We carefully consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

Details at a glance

- Remote Possible
- Part Time Schedule

Location

Springfield, MA

How to Apply

office@jalsa.org
http://www.jalsa.org

This is a part-time $15,600 a year, 15 hours a week position includes benefits. Please send a cover letter and resume to office@jalsa.org