

Date Posted: 08/01/2011

**University of Houston
Graduate College of Social Work**

JOB OPPORTUNITY POSTING

Job Title: Senior Child Welfare Policy/Research Analyst

Employer/Agency: Children's Rights

Job Description: Children's Rights is a national advocacy organization working to reform America's failing child welfare. Children's Rights uses legal advocacy—primarily in the form of class action system reform litigation—and policy research to achieve these goals. Children's Rights currently has a staff of 45 and an annual budget of \$7.5 million. It is currently in a strategic planning process in anticipation of significant organizational growth over the next 5 years that will broaden the scope and impact of our work.

Children's Rights' Policy Department staff work closely with its legal staff. It plays a critical role in helping to advance the pace of reform in the jurisdictions in which we are involved by providing 1) corroboration for legal claims through the use of existing social science research; 2) consultation to the legal teams around elements of system reform and appropriate ways to monitor progress toward goals; and 3) tracking of jurisdictions' progress around benchmarks established through our settlement agreements.

In addition to supporting these targeted reform campaigns in specific jurisdictions, Children's Rights' Policy Department also examines national and selected local policy issues, and issues reports to inform the field and support advocacy for necessary changes in policies and practices.

Children's Rights provides a unique opportunity for a child welfare professional to examine and affect child welfare policy and practice. For more information, see www.childrensrights.org.

Responsibilities:

The Senior Policy/Research Analyst reports to the Director of Policy and Research and will be required to:

- Use the professional literature to demonstrate the harms caused to children by ineffective child welfare policies and practices.
- Use knowledge of both professional and federal standards to provide guidance on the appropriate course of action litigation teams should take in their negotiations with states.
- Use knowledge of child welfare practice and policy to assess the performance of state and local child welfare systems involved in class action litigation with Children's Rights.
- Work with national coalitions to promote improvements to child welfare service delivery.
- Collaborate with the Director of Policy and Research while taking lead responsibility for developing and executing national and selected local policy research projects of key child welfare issues and practices, which may include quantitative and qualitative analyses.
- Prepare reports, articles, and other written materials on child welfare policy issues.
- Prepare presentations and present on child welfare issues at local and national conferences.
- Provide guidance and supervision to policy interns both during the school year and over the summer.

Qualifications:

- A Master's degree in social work, child and family studies, public policy, social policy, or related field; a Ph.D. is preferred.
- At least five years of increasingly responsible child welfare practice, policy, and/or research experience.
- Strong oral and written communication skills.
- Strong organizational skills and an ability to handle a variety of job tasks simultaneously.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work with a variety of professionals.
- Ability to work effectively both independently and as a member of a team.
- Knowledge of appropriate search engines, databases, and sources of federally reported child

- welfare information and data.
- Knowledge of research methodology and statistics.
- Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point; SPSS and/or other statistical analysis software; and nVivo or other qualitative data analysis software.

Salary/Hours: Salary is commensurate with experience and is competitive with other public interest organizations. Children's Rights provides an excellent benefit package.
Full-time

Employer/Agency: Children's Rights
Address: 330 Seventh Avenue, 4th Floor
City, State, Zip: New York, NY 10001

Phone: (212) 683-2210
Fax: (212)683-4015

Application Method: Interested candidates should send a resume and detailed cover letter electronically to SReeves@childrensrights.org and include "Analyst" in the subject line.

Opening Date: Immediately

***If your response to this job posting results in successful employment, please email the GCSW Office of Alumni and Career Services at mjobs@sw.uh.edu with the hiring details of your new job opportunity.
Thank you***