

Director of Policy and Advocacy

New Yorkers United for Justice

Reports to: Executive Director

Start Date: ASAP

Location: New York City

Full Time/Exempt

About NYUJ

New Yorkers United for Justice (NYUJ) is New York's foremost criminal justice reform coalition, comprised of more than a dozen local and national nonprofit organizations on the forefronts of civil rights, social justice, and legal advocacy and all deeply invested in criminal justice reform in New York State. The NYUJ coalition of organizations is bipartisan, interfaith, and diverse.

NYUJ promotes urgent, common sense reforms to the criminal justice system in the Empire State to improve the fairness of the system, increase public safety, and reduce incarceration. NYUJ does this by educating the public about the criminal justice system and its flaws; supporting officials with the information, tools, and resources they need to make the right decisions about criminal justice reforms; and preventing the spread of misinformation about the system and the people impacted by it.

NYUJ supports bold action by all branches of the government to drive out racism from the system, to treat poor and rich communities equally under the law, to protect the integrity of families impacted by the justice system, and to make all New Yorkers safer. Fundamentally, NYUJ works to ensure that equal access to justice in New York State is neither denied nor limited on the basis of age, race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, or any other improper basis. NYUJ is a fiscal project of Dream Corps.

Job Summary

The Director of Policy and Advocacy manages and advances NYUJ's policy priorities. The Director of Policy and Advocacy conducts research on the coalition's policy priorities; produces primers, educational materials, and analyses on the coalition's policy priorities; assists outside vendors and partners with legislative advocacy strategies; interfaces with elected officials and their offices, outside advocacy organizations, and research institutions; and monitors the greater criminal justice landscape in New York State.

The Director of Policy and Advocacy reports to the Executive Director, coordinates activities with the Director of Communications and the organization's Senior Advisors, manages the work of outside researchers and interns, liaises with Coalition member organizations and

their respective policy departments, and is the staff lead for the coalition's Policy and Advocacy Committee.

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Full medical benefits and retirement plans are available.

Essential Functions and Responsibilities:

- Proactively identify and act on potential new policy priorities.
- Review and summarize legislative proposals for coalition review.
- Assist coalition members in developing positions on policy priorities.
- Conduct research on policy priorities and understand policy from various angles including impact on prison populations, impact on racial disparities, and fiscal impacts.
- Educate coalition members, NYUJ staff, and NYUJ vendors on emerging policy issues and potential priorities.
- Act as primary point of contact for NYUJ lobbyists and assist in legislative affairs strategy.
- Act as staff liaison to the Policy and Advocacy Committee of the NYUJ Coalition. Liaise with member organization policy departments to ensure coordination among NYUJ member organizations.
- Work with the Director of Communications in drafting press releases and public materials around key policy priorities and with the roll out of policy and research publications.

Education, Experience, and Competencies:

- Five (5) years of professional experience in policy research, legislative advocacy, and/or legal services and relevant higher ed degree(s).
- Deep commitment to advancing criminal justice reform in New York State and a strong knowledge of criminal justice terminology and landscapes.
- Ability to produce high quality written materials, research, and presentations quickly and accurately.
- Diplomacy in managing different ideas, perspectives, and political philosophies.
- Ability to foster consensus among diverse stakeholders and balance diverse views in the development of policy positions.
- Familiarity with legislative processes.
- Experience working within coalitions.
- Exemplary presentation skills.
- Vendor and/or budget management experience.

To apply:

Submit your resume and cover letter to info@nyuj.org.