

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Community Organizer

BASIC FUNCTION: To work as an organizer with low and moderate income neighborhood groups affiliated with ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. The self-governed local groups confront a broad range of economic and political issues which affect their lives--utility rates, health care taxes, neighborhood deterioration, etc.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: A. To complete a two month in-house apprenticeship-style training program devoted entirely to direct organizing. The first week is an orientation period during which the trainee gains familiarity with office systems and research techniques, reads compiled organizing materials, and meets with staff members to discuss the basics of setting up an organizing drive. In the second phase of training, the trainee works under the direction of an experienced ACORN organizer in the actual organization of a community group. After the organization is formed, the third phase of training stresses maintenance of the group, development of strategies and tactics, and mechanics of internal financing.

B. To assume the responsibility of coordinating the organizing activities of existing neighborhood groups in one of ACORN's regional offices. The organizer works with ACORN members in the planning, implementation and evaluation of group strategies. Other responsibilities include research on local campaign issues, leadership development, participation in large-scale statewide campaigns, development of the financial self-sufficiency of ACORN at the neighborhood level by coordinating the membership dues system.

C. The organizer must attend project and statewide staff meetings and participate in on-going training sessions.

SUPERVISION: The Head Organizer of each state meets regularly with the field organizers to consult on organizing problems and offer guidance.

STIPEND: Organizers are paid \$2200 for the first half year and \$2400 for the second half year for a total of \$4600 for the first year with additional increases determined by the length of time they work with ACORN. You are paid while in training. There is a mileage subsidy.

BENEFITS: 6 paid holidays, 1 week vacation for the first year, 5 sick leave days, Social Security, Unemployment Compensation, option to be included in ACORN's group major medical insurance policy.

REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must demonstrate a concern for economic justice, a dedication to social change, a willingness to move according to the needs of the organization, and an ability to work well with people of varied backgrounds. A driver's license is a necessity. The applicant must be willing to work with ACORN for at least one year.

INQUIRES: Contact Kaye Jaeger, ACORN, 117 Spring St., Syracuse NY 13208 315-476-0162.