

Linda Kennedy Fellowship in Advocacy, Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

Academic Year, Part-Time, Paid Position

Are you a law student interested in policy advocacy to achieve social change? If so, the Homeless Persons Representation Project (HPRP), based in Baltimore, MD, is accepting applications for the Linda Kennedy Fellowship in Advocacy. During the COVID-19 pandemic, HPRP staff have primarily worked remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, with some community-based outreach and use of office space as needed. We will continue to assess current conditions and adjust our policies as appropriate.

Background: HPRP is a non-profit organization with a mission to end homelessness in Maryland by providing free legal services, including advice, counsel, education, representation and advocacy, for people who have low or no income and who are experiencing homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The Linda Kennedy Fellowship in Advocacy, established in 2009, honors the late Linda Kennedy, Esq., a courageous and determined advocate for persons with disabilities and persons without housing, whose advocacy efforts included successfully urging the passage of legislation before the Maryland General Assembly that eliminated barriers to employment and housing for over 20,000 persons.

Fellowship: The Linda Kennedy Fellowship in Advocacy provides a second or third year law student with a fall and spring semester paid internship at HPRP's Baltimore office to work on policy and systemic issues that promote an end to homelessness in Baltimore City and in Maryland. The selected Fellow is expected to work a minimum of twenty hours per week for ten weeks, or a comparable schedule. Past Fellows have drafted legislation, advocated for City and State legislation with elected officials, and testified before the Maryland General Assembly, among other activities.

Reports to: Director - Economic Justice and Director – Homeless Youth Initiative

Responsibilities:

- Legal and policy research;
- Prepare brochures, testimony, fact sheets, issue briefs, and policy or “white papers” on distinct issues;
- Attend community and coalition meetings, including coordinating some coalitions;
- Testify at public meetings and/or legislative hearings; and
- Work with HPRP staff to provide HPRP clients with meaningful opportunities to engage policy makers.

Required Skills and Qualifications:

- Education: second or third year law students;
- Experience with legal research and writing
- Interest in working with people experiencing homelessness or with low incomes
- Facility with computer and internet technology. Highly proficient with Microsoft Office for Windows (Word, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint, etc.), as well as internet navigation;
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity and social justice by using a personal approach that values all individuals and respects differences.

Although the following are not required, they are valued for this position:

- Lived experience of housing instability or homelessness
- Experience working with people experiencing homelessness or with low incomes
- Fluency in Spanish

Compensation: A \$3,000 stipend is provided to the Fellow at the commencement of the Fellowship and, should the Fellow's work meet appropriate standards, a second stipend of \$3,000 will be provided at the start of the spring semester.

To Apply: Please send a cover letter, resume and writing sample to jobs@hprplaw.org (please specify Linda Kennedy Fellowship in Advocacy in the subject line). We are looking for thoughtful, personalized cover letters that demonstrate the applicant's qualifications and work style and interest in being part of a team working to end homelessness. We are looking for applicants who have a comprehensive understanding of oppression, and structural racism, including how structural racism perpetuates barriers to housing and income. Resume reviews begin immediately and applications will be accepted until position is filled.

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement: HPRP requires all employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Exemptions for medical or religious reasons will be processed by human resources.

HPRP is an equal opportunity employer that values a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture. We believe that having a staff, board, and volunteers with diverse personal and professional backgrounds and lived experience enhances our ability to meet our mission and creates an environment where all members of our community can thrive. We strongly encourage applications from Black people, Indigenous peoples, people of color, immigrants, persons with disabilities, members of the TLGBQIA+ community, people with lived experience of poverty and/or homelessness, and people from other underrepresented and historically marginalized groups.