Office of the Child Advocate
State of Connecticut

STATE CHILD ADVOCATE

Are you an individual who has the passion and professional experience to fulfill the role of State Child Advocate? If so, we are seeking applicants with extensive experience in advocating on behalf of children and families to be the Child Advocate at the Office of the Child Advocate, State of Connecticut.

Connecticut established the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) in 1995. Its mission is to oversee the protection and care of the state's most vulnerable and youngest citizens and advocate for their well-being. The OCA currently employs five staff and has an annual budget of $720,571.

We Invite You to Explore This Career Opportunity

THE POSITION

The responsibilities of the Child Advocate are delineated in Connecticut statute. Pursuant to C.G.S. 46a-13*l*, the Child Advocate shall:

- Evaluate the delivery of services to children by state agencies and those entities that provide services to children through funds provided by the state;
- Review periodically the procedures established by any state agency providing services to children with a view toward the rights of the children and recommend revisions to such procedures;
- Receive, review, and investigate complaints concerning the actions of entities providing state, state funded or municipal services to children, make appropriate referrals and investigate those where the Child Advocate determines that a child or family may be in need of assistance from the Child Advocate or that a systemic issue in the state's provision of services to children is raised by the complaint;

- Pursuant to an investigation, provide assistance to a child or family who the Child Advocate determines is in need of such assistance including, but not limited to, advocating with an agency, provider or others on behalf of the best interests of the child;
- Periodically review the facilities and procedures of any and all institutions or residences, public or private, where a juvenile has been placed by any agency or department;
- Recommend changes in state policies concerning children including changes in the system of providing juvenile justice, child care, foster care and treatment;
- Take all possible action including, but not limited to, conducting programs of public education, undertaking legislative advocacy and making proposals for systemic reform and formal legal action, in order to secure and ensure the legal, civil and special rights of children who reside in this state;
- Provide training and technical assistance to attorneys representing children and guardians ad litem appointed by the Superior Court;
- Periodically review the number of special needs children in any foster care or permanent care facility and recommend changes in the policies and procedures of the placement of such children;
- Serve or designate a person to serve as a member of the state child fatality review panel; and
- Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services of the OCA , the purpose of the office and procedures to contact the office.

QUALIFICATIONS

Extensive knowledge and experience in advocating on behalf of children and families; experience or working knowledge of child welfare, juvenile justice, child health/behavioral health, education and judicial systems, particularly as those systems impact children; knowledge of the legislative system and process; and the ability to undertake both investigations and legislative initiatives. The ideal candidate will have experience as a leader and supervisor; documented exceptional oral and written communication skills; exceptional analytical skills; experience as a skilled and diplomatic negotiator and as a persuasive public speaker; the ability to conduct systemic investigations; experience working with or the ability to work with the media; and the ability to effectively collaborate with multiple individuals and organizations. Attorney applicants preferred.

TERM OF OFFICE: The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly, shall appoint the Child Advocate. The person appointed Child Advocate shall serve for a term of four years and may be reappointed.

CONNECTICUT

It's the right place to grow.

Connecticut offers a quality of life that is second to none. The unique mix of cultural diversity and traditional New England character is evident in the people and places, from historic sites and a great maritime heritage, to modern urban centers. Hartford, the capitol city, is centrally located just over two hours from the major hubs of Boston and New York City.

Connecticut is known for its beautiful rolling hills, lakes, charming small towns with white steeple churches, historic village greens and small farms. There are classic Ivy League universities, and excellent public and private schools. Connecticut is a thriving center of business, as well as a vacation land, offering a full variety of urban and rural residential settings for work and play.

COMPENSATION PACKAGE

Salary Range: $95,463 - $145,684. The total compensation plan includes a generous benefit package worth over 50 percent of the employee's annual salary. Benefits and options include: extensive medical and dental insurance options, long and short term disability, life insurance, excellent retirement plan, deferred compensation plan, a generous vacation plan, personal leave, sick leave, 12 paid holidays, dependent care assistance program, and medical flexible spending account program.

TO APPLY

Please forward a current resume and cover letter stating how you would make a difference for the children of Connecticut by **5:00 PM April 30, 2012** to:

JOEL RUDIKOFF
OCA Advisory Committee Chair
c/o Office of the Child Advocate
999 Asylum Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105

Or email to:
Special.Recruitment@ct.gov

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
The State of Connecticut is an equal opportunity/ affirmative action employer and strongly encourages applications of women, minorities and persons with disabilities.