



## **Environmental Justice Federal Policy Analyst Position Description**

### **ORGANIZATION MISSION & HISTORY**

WE ACT for Environmental Justice is a Northern Manhattan community-based organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by assuring that people of color and/or low-income participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. WE ACT is working to achieve this mission by securing our 8 indicators of a healthy community: Clean Air; Affordable, Equitable Transit; Waste Reduction, Pests & Pesticides Reduction; Toxic Free Products; Good Food in Schools; Sustainable Land Use; Open & Green Space; and Healthy Indoor Environments.

Since our inception in 1988, WE ACT has grown from a small, community-led volunteer group focused on West Harlem's most prominent environmental issue – air pollution – into a nationally recognized and respected environmental justice advocate and leader.

Currently, WE ACT's key priority issues include: children's environmental health and health disparities; climate change and climate justice; reducing disproportionate exposure to air pollution; food justice; transportation equity; and chemical policy reform.

At the national level, WE ACT organized a cross section of the environmental justice (EJ) constituency to effectively advocate about the absence of public health considerations in current climate change policy, and to point out how current legislative approaches will negatively impact and exacerbate disparities in low income and communities of color. WE ACT has also played a leading role in the development of legislation that seeks to advance our nation's chemical policies and chemical security via reform of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act.

## **POSITION DESCRIPTION**

WE ACT is seeking a skilled and experienced legislative policy analyst and grassroots federal agency liaison who can successfully advocate for federal legislative and regulatory action that addresses its eight core environmental and public health indicators affecting environmental justice communities in New York City. This position will be based in Washington, DC, though regular visits to the main WE ACT office in New York City will be required.

### **Responsibilities**

- Conduct research and analysis of clean energy and climate policies.
- Develop and support legislative and regulatory initiatives promoting an environmental justice perspective in a variety of policy arenas, including:
  1. Clean Air
  2. Climate Change/Energy
  3. Chemical Policy
  4. Environmental Health
  5. School Nutrition and Access to Fresh and Healthy Food
- Analyze proposed legislation, regulations and rulemakings pertaining to clean air, climate change/energy, chemical policy, environmental health and school nutrition.
- Strong capacity to critique and draft language for proposed legislative, regulatory and rulemaking proposals, write and deliver expert testimony before legislative and regulatory bodies.
- Develop position papers, fact sheets, presentations, talking points, web copy and other products for use in communication, educational, advocacy and outreach activities.
- Provide technical and strategic assistance to policymakers, opinion leaders, and the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum coalition partners.
- Help develop project objectives, strategies, work plans, and budgets.
- Cultivate WE ACT's policy presence in the following ways:
  1. Establish and strengthen relationships between WE ACT and elected officials and their staff regarding national policy proposals that align with WE ACT's eight core priority areas.
  2. Collaborate with New York-based community organizing and outreach staff to strengthen WE ACT's public policy advocacy and create a local community advocacy base; as well as support community outreach and educational activities.
  3. Engage in public education via speaking engagements, public hearings, policy briefings, press conferences/media events and other similar activities.

## **Other Skills**

Familiarity, knowledge of, or ability to learn the levers of political leadership and influence of city, state and federal politics in New York City. Strong political instincts, solid analytical, writing, and public speaking skills. Work experience preferably as either a legislative staff of an elected official, on a legislative committee, or in the public policy office of an industry or non-profit, or on a legislative/policy campaign. Must have a clear understanding of how organizing can support successful public policy advocacy.

## **Reporting**

This position will report to WE ACT's Deputy Director/Director of Policy Initiatives.

## **Qualifications**

A law degree, or master's degree, and/or several years of experience working in the public interest and public advocacy arena, or a related field. Strong academic record and excellent writing, speaking and analytical skills. The successful candidate will be a self-starter with a track record of personal initiative and success. Demonstrated commitment to public interest advocacy and the ability to work productively as a member of a fast-paced team of skilled professionals is required. A demonstrated understanding of – and commitment to – any of the following fields: environmental justice, public health, civil rights, or environmental policy.

## **Compensation**

The **Environmental Justice Federal Policy Advocate** is a full-time position and based in Washington, DC with regular travel to WE ACT's main office in New York City. Salary is competitive and commensurate with background and experience.

## **To Apply**

Please send a resume and cover letter to Evelyn Joseph, Director of Administration, via email at: [evelyn@weact.org](mailto:evelyn@weact.org).

For further information about WE ACT for Environmental Justice,  
please visit our website at [www.weact.org](http://www.weact.org)

***WE ACT for Environmental Justice is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.***