



Position Announcement: Health Equity Advocacy Fellow with Focus on Medicaid Advocacy

Greater Hartford Legal Aid (GHLA), in partnership with the Connecticut Health Foundation, seeks a **Health Equity Advocacy Fellow with a Focus on Medicaid Advocacy**. Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc. (GHLA) is a not for profit law firm which provides free civil legal services, legal education, and policy advocacy to low income people, seniors, and people with disabilities in our service area in Hartford County. The Connecticut Health Foundation is the state's largest independent health philanthropy dedicated to improving lives and creating health equity by changing health systems.

The purpose of the Connecticut Health Foundation fellowship program is to develop diverse leaders in the state who have the knowledge, skills, and courage to build more equitable health systems, organizations, and communities. The long-term goal is to have a cohort of fellows working independently and collaboratively to influence systems change through targeted health equity advocacy for people of color in Connecticut.

The Health Equity Advocacy Fellow will be based at GHLA. The Fellow will spend two years completing and documenting a series of rotations with a variety of organizations and agencies in Connecticut that have a demonstrated track record in Medicaid and/or health equity-related advocacy, including one rotation at GHLA working with legal services policy advocates.

The successful Fellow will gain leadership knowledge and skills regarding how policy change and advocacy can be used to effectively advance health equity with a focus on Medicaid issues. The focus will be on how systems can give rise to health inequity and how changing systems can create real, sustainable solutions to highly complex problems.

Qualifications of the Health Equity Advocacy Fellow with Focus on Medicaid Advocacy:

- Bachelors degree; **plus** graduate degree in public health, medicine, law, public administration or related field, or extensive experience working in the public health or public policy arena,
- Superior interpersonal, oral and written communication skills,
- Excellent administrative and organizational skills, including ability to self-direct
- Personal attributes including:
 - dedication to high ethical standards
 - the ability to engender confidence and trust
 - self-motivation, strong work ethic, and commitment to working as a team
 - the ability to work effectively with diverse groups and individuals
 - individual plans for incorporating the fellowship experience into specific, long-term career goals

The Health Equity Advocacy Fellow with Focus on Medicaid Advocacy will be given needed guidance and be expected to engage in these **High Priority Roles and Responsibilities**:

- Listen to key constituents and stakeholders, while seeking out the perspectives of those impacted by the unequal delivery of health care
- Collaborate and establish networks
- Engage in meaningful and informed discussions regarding health and benefits issues and the impact of health inequities
- Think strategically
- Research existing literature and learn about substantive systemic health equity issues, with a particular focus on health inequities and Medicaid advocacy
- Develop and enhance leadership skills
- Write and speak accessibly and persuasively about health equity issues
- Identify opportunities for systemic advocacy, recognize barriers and problem solve
- Advocate regarding health inequities and Medicaid policy

Structure of the Fellowship: The Health Equity Advocacy Fellow will spend approximately half a day a week at the Connecticut Health Foundation, and at least one day a week and one rotation during the fellowship at GHLA working on health equity and benefits-related systemic advocacy issues.

CONFIDENTIAL Application Process:

To encourage all interested and highly qualified applicants to apply, the hiring process will be confidential. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. In order to receive full consideration, however, candidates are urged to submit their materials **by March 16, 2020**.

Interested candidates should submit a *letter* expressing in detail your interest in the position of **Health Equity Advocacy Fellow with a Focus on Medicaid Advocacy**, and what you believe you can contribute to the future of health equity advocacy. The letter should be accompanied by a current *resume*, two *writing samples* and three *references*. **Materials should be emailed to HealthEquityFellow@ghla.org.**

GHLA is an equal opportunity employer and is a signatory to the Connecticut Legal Community's Diversity and Inclusion Pledge. Excellent salary and benefits. This is a full-time grant-funded time-limited two-year position.

About Greater Hartford Legal Aid:

Mission: *To achieve equal justice for poor people, to work with clients to promote social justice, and to address the effects and root causes of poverty.*

Incorporated in 1958, GHLA advocates for low-income people through a variety of strategies including policy, systemic and individual advocacy. Throughout GHLA's history its approach has been collaborative and flexible, identifying emerging issues while building new partnerships and identifying innovative approaches. GHLA's priorities include improving the health and safety of clients who are low-income, elderly or disabled, helping workers move toward economic stability, protecting victims of family violence, preserving benefits for those who cannot work, preventing homelessness and preserving affordable housing, and increasing educational opportunities for children.

Over the past 60 years, GHLA has also engaged in litigation, legislative and policy efforts that have achieved significant systemic results for the low-income community. These include ***Carr v. Wilson-Coker***, which addressed inadequate access to oral health services for Medicaid recipients; and ***Briggs v. Bremby***, which addressed delays in processing food stamps (SNAP) applications for low-income families.

About Connecticut Health Foundation:

Mission: *To improve the health of Connecticut residents. To achieve this, we focus on improving outcomes for people of color and ensuring that all Connecticut residents have access to quality, affordable health care regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.*

The Connecticut Health Foundation (CT Health) is the state's largest independent health philanthropy dedicated to improving lives by changing health systems. Since it was established in July 1999, the foundation has supported innovative grant-making, public health policy research, technical assistance and convening to achieve its mission - to improve the health of the people of Connecticut. Over the past 15 years, CT Health has awarded grants totaling \$54 million in 45 cities and towns throughout the state.

CT Health's 2018 – 2020 strategic plan Goals and Objectives include ensuring access to health care and coverage, and strengthening advocacy and leadership. CT Health focuses on how systems can give rise to health inequity and how changing systems can create real, sustainable solutions to highly complex problems. This big-picture approach helps improve the quality and access of care for entire populations.