Hogg Mental Health Policy Fellow
SEARCH PROFILE

AUSTIN, TX

JULY 2022

The Organization

TexProtects was founded in 2000 as the Dallas-based Child Abuse Prevention Advocacy Commission (CAPAC) to address the critical need for reform in Dallas County's Child Protective Services (CPS). Though the organization has evolved since its founding, eventually becoming today's TexProtects, it consistently utilizes a multifaceted, evidence-based approach to bring awareness to issues surrounding CPS reform, organizing voices speaking to the needs of children at risk of abuse, and aims to activate the most powerful and effective constituency to advocate for change in these issues. Furthermore, TexProtects utilizes short-term solutions to meet the immediate needs of at-risk children, their families and communities while also championing long-term reform by devising scalable and innovative solutions. Ultimately, TexProtects' goal is to create broad, systematic change via major public policy innovations of child protection systems and to leverage private and public funding to scale high-impact prevention solutions.

TexProtects' Mission

TexProtects protects Texas children from the trauma of abuse and neglect and empowers families to thrive through education, research, and advocacy. TexProtects effects change by organizing and educating its members to advocate for increased investments in evidence-based child abuse prevention programs, CPS reforms, and treatment programs to heal abuse victims.

TexProtects focuses predominately on five issue areas across the child protection continuum: child abuse prevention; CPS system and workforce; family preservation; foster care; and transition support for foster youth.

Impact and Collaboration

Recognizing the limitations of a single organization, TexProtects has consistently positioned itself as a coalition-builder and collaborator to advocate on behalf of outcomes for children. Over the last 18 years and 9 legislative sessions, TexProtects has assisted and/or led the passage of 53 bills that have improved the CPS system and fought for and secured over $200 million for family support home visitation programs that currently serve over 20,000 Texas families. The legislative accomplishments have been achieved with support from many of our collaborative partnerships.

Today, TexProtects is an autonomous, nonpartisan data-driven think tank and advocacy organization designed to educate decision makers, private funders, and the public at large. It remains the only Texas organization dedicated to the main issues of protection, prevention, and the healing of abused and neglected children. Additionally, in 2017, TexProtects absorbed the operations of Prevent Child Abuse Texas

We are looking for self-motivated and purpose-driven individuals to join our collaborative, positive, fast-paced, flexible, and innovative culture!

Job Description

Job Title: Hogg Mental Health Policy Fellow
Reports To: Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs
Main Office: Austin
Category: Exempt; Full-time
Revision Date: July 2022

Purpose: This full-time Mental Health Policy Fellowship is made possible through the support of the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. TexProtects is seeking a dynamic, highly qualified candidate who can take a lead role in developing and executing TexProtects' public policy agenda at the local and state levels. This position is a 2-year position being funded by a grant from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.

Duties and Responsibilities:
To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to satisfactorily perform each of the essential duties and responsibilities listed below. The duties and responsibilities include the following, though other duties may be assigned.

Legislative:
- Conduct policy research and analyze local and statewide behavioral health statistics to help develop TexProtects' policy platforms at the state level
- Provide research to support relevant state-level policy reforms, including collecting and analyzing data and interviewing stakeholders and practitioners
- Develop written one-pagers for TexProtects policy issues
- Organize pre- and post-88th Legislative Session events to educate legislators and their staff on pertinent behavioral health policy issues
- Draft letters in support or in opposition to legislation based upon TexProtects's mission and policy priorities

Advocacy:
- Meet with policymakers and their staff to educate them about mental health and substance use disorder issues and potential ways to address them
- Deliver both written and oral testimony in support or in opposition to legislation based upon TexProtects' policy platform
- Develop "advocacy alerts" to mobilize the broader behavioral health community in support or in opposition to specific behavioral health legislation
- Assist in mobilizing advocates throughout the State of Texas through electronic communications as needed for interactions with policymakers
- Educate advocates regarding public policy advocacy and legislative action

Key Technical Skills and Knowledge:
To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each qualification satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required.
- Ability to assist with legislative strategies and public policy initiatives for the benefit of TexProtects
- Ability to build working relationships with other organizations, legislative offices, and stakeholders
- Desire to work to improve policies benefitting people with mental health and/or substance use disorders
- Innovative thinker with a proven track record for translating strategic thinking into action plans and output
- Excellent judgment and creative problem-solving skills, including negotiation and conflict resolution skills
- Self-reliant and motivated with exceptional written and oral communication skills
- Passion for TexProtects' mission
- Competency in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams)

Education and Experience:
- Master's degree within the previous 18 months required in law, social work, public policy, public health, or a related field
- Previous experience working at the Texas State Capitol preferred

Physical Requirements:

The physical requirements and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of the job.
- Attend Hogg Foundation Mental Health Policy Fellow Program in-person events in Austin, including but not limited to a program orientation and standing monthly meetings.
- Moderate to high-stress level
- Regular and predictable attendance
- Occasional standing and lifting of at least 5 pounds
- Long periods of sitting
- Occasional travel

Salary and Benefits:
- Year 1 salary: $55,000 and year 2 salary: $60,000 with potential for additional twice year bonuses
- 401k match up to 5% of gross salary
- Healthcare plan including medical, dental and vision
- Hybrid and flexible work environment
- Generous holiday leave and paid time off
- New technology equipment (laptop, monitor, printer) provided
- TexProtects offers ongoing professional development and an inclusive work environment for personal and professional growth during the fellowship

To Apply:

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and a relevant writing sample (no longer than two pages) to Child Protection Policy Manager, Kerrie Judice at kerrie@texprotects.org. Please insert "Hogg Mental Health Policy Fellow" in the email subject line.

No phone calls please.
Submissions due by Thursday, August 4, 2022.