



STATE INNOVATION EXCHANGE

State Innovation Exchange (SiX) Position Announcement: Sustainable Agriculture Policy Program Consultant

About the State Innovation Exchange

The State Innovation Exchange (SiX) is a 501(c)(3) national resource and strategy center that supports state legislators who seek to strengthen our democracy, fight for working families, defend civil rights and liberties, and protect the environment. We do this by providing state legislative offices with top-notch training and research, emphasizing leadership development, amplifying legislators' voices, and forging strategic alliances between our legislative network and grassroots movements. Our vision is to build toward long-term progressive power and infrastructure at the state level.

Position Summary

SiX is seeking a talented leader with a record of success in coalition building, policy promotion, and legislative organizing to serve as a consultant to help us establish our sustainable agriculture program. The ideal candidate will be a passionate, results-driven progressive who can take direction and operate independently. The agriculture program consultant will work with national staff at SiX as well as in-state and national partners to promote progressive agriculture policies and legislation.

As part of SiX's organizational growth, our goal is to establish an ongoing sustainable agriculture and food systems program within SiX. The agriculture program consultant will be part of initiating that process by working with the larger policy field to grow a sophisticated and unique state legislative program within the organization.

This position is currently posted through December 31, 2018, subject to renewal based on fit and funding. This is a 50-75% position, subject to negotiation.

Objectives and High-Level Activities:

1. Help lead development of and oversee SiX's sustainable agriculture and food systems work. This individual would serve as a key advisor to the executive team in helping to ensure that the sustainable agriculture work is fully integrated into the broader strategic view and priorities within the organization. The individual would be responsible for leading our conversations with partners, funders, and legislators to identify and narrow the universe of engagement options with the goal of identifying the most effective and collaborative approach to our work in the space to educate on and create support for sound agriculture policies.
2. Work with SiX's outreach team to broaden and deepen engagement among the SiX legislative network on food production and its social and environmental impacts, including beginning to identify in-state legislator champions, building interest and increasing familiarity with this set of

issues.

3. Work with advocates, legislators and key content partners to identify both target states and policy opportunities. Specific issues of focus could include but are not limited to: local control of land use and agriculture; promoting transparency; maintaining existing environmental laws; defeating laws exempting the largest polluters from nuisance lawsuits; promoting local food policy councils and good food purchasing; infrastructure for local food systems; state checkoffs; and country of origin labeling.
4. Shape partner engagement and strategy on agriculture and food systems to guide strategy and enhance work in the states, including accessing policy, messaging, and other resources to support SiX's work with legislators.
5. Help structure and organize events and training as necessary, including events such as a sustainable agriculture-focused panel at SiX's annual legislator meeting or other gatherings, regular webinars and virtual trainings, and specific trainings and engagements by request.

Skills & Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree.
- Six to 10 years of work experience in policy, campaigns, advocacy, or related fields.
- At least 2-3 years of work experience in policy, campaigns, or advocacy specifically related to sustainable agriculture and food systems.
- Experience with state-level advocacy
- Excellent organizational skills, with the ability to work independently and drive projects to completion
- Ability to work quickly under pressure and juggle several projects at once
- Comfort with representing the organization at meetings and events
- Strong communications and writing skills
- Understanding of state policy and legislative process
- Ability to read and analyze policy language
- Willingness to handle occasional long hours and travel
- A passion for progressive issues and politics at the state and national level

Priority Application Deadline: March 31, 2018 (applications will be accepted until position is filled)

How to Apply

Send a cover letter and resume to jobs@stateinnovation.org. Please include "Agriculture Program Director" in the subject line. Applications accepted until position is filled. No phone calls, please.

The State Innovation Exchange is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from all qualified individuals including women, people of color, persons with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals.