

This search ended in April, 2005, with the appointment of Jodi Grant, Director of Work and Family Programs at the National Partnership for Women and Children.

Job Announcement

Afterschool Alliance Executive Director (Posted: February 23, 2005)

The Afterschool Alliance in Washington, DC, has retained Slesinger Management Services to recruit a passionate leader and results-focused manager to serve as executive director. This is an exceptional opportunity for an individual with advocacy, communications, and fundraising skills who is committed to working on behalf of children. Applications will be accepted until this position is filled.

The Organization

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of afterschool programs by building and mobilizing public will, and advocating for quality, affordable programs for all children. The Alliance's overriding goal is to increase public and private investment in quality afterschool programs at the national, state, and local levels.

The Alliance believes that afterschool programs improve opportunities for children's learning and development, help families, and improve community safety. The need for these programs is clearly not adequately addressed. Approximately 14 million children take care of themselves after the school day ends, including almost four million middle school students in grades six to eight. And the parents of another 15 million children say their children would participate if an afterschool program were available.

Creating more afterschool programs, increasing program quality, and moving toward long-term sustainability requires building public will in support of afterschool. The Alliance was created to conduct this public awareness and advocacy work and to serve as a national voice for afterschool. Specifically, the Alliance seeks to be an effective voice for afterschool in efforts to expand quality afterschool programs; to serve as an information source on afterschool programs and resources; to encourage the development of local, state, and national afterschool constituencies and systems; and to communicate the impact of afterschool programs on children, families and communities.

The Alliance grew from public awareness efforts undertaken by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Education to expand afterschool programs through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool program. The federal government provided grants to local communities for afterschool programs, while the Mott Foundation funded training, technical assistance, evaluation, and public awareness activities. The Foundation and the Department's efforts were shared by other organizations interested in

achieving afterschool for all. These groups came together in 1999 to create the Afterschool Alliance.

The Alliance currently has an operating budget of approximately \$3 million, primarily from the Mott Foundation, the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, and the Open Society Institute, and a staff of seven who work at the Alliance's headquarters in Washington, DC or in a branch office in New York City. (The founding executive director of the Alliance, Judy Samelson, was based in Michigan. With her departure from the organization, the executive director position will now be at the headquarters in Washington, DC.)

The Alliance is governed by a 10-person board of directors, composed of individuals with deep interest and experience in afterschool programs. The current board includes representatives from the three major funders, as well as local, state, and national leaders.

(A note on the organization's name: the word "Alliance" refers to its effort to create a national movement for afterschool programs. The organization does not have any formal financial, governance, or programmatic ties to other organizations, and it does not have members, affiliates, or chapters. Rather, it is a free-standing 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that seeks to forge informal, but strong and effective partnerships and collaborative activities with a wide variety of organizations throughout the United States.)

To learn more about the Afterschool Alliance, please see www.AfterschoolAlliance.org.

Principal Responsibilities of the Executive Director

This is an opportunity for a person with both leadership and management skills to strengthen a nascent but growing movement that has great potential to benefit children.

The overriding responsibility of the next executive director is to lead and manage this young organization so that it can carry out its mission successfully over the coming years.

Specific responsibilities include:

1. Working with the board and staff, and in consultation with leaders of local, state, and national organizations, to create a strategic plan that will guide the organization's work over the next several years.
2. Expanding the Afterschool Alliance's capacity as an effective advocate for the emerging afterschool community, which includes people and organizations active in education and youth development.
3. Raising significant revenue from more foundations, corporations, government agencies, and other sources, thereby creating a broader base of support that will enable the Alliance to carry out new programs while reducing dependence on its lead funders.
4. Building and maintaining organizational relationships with key national, state, and local groups active in afterschool activity where strong working ties help the Alliance carry out its mission.
5. Serving as a media spokesperson and champion for the Alliance and the afterschool movement.

6. Leading and mentoring the staff in the Washington, DC, and New York offices.
7. Supporting the efforts of the board of directors as it strengthens and expands its governance and leadership capabilities.

Desired Skills and Personal Characteristics

To be successful, the executive director should be:

1. Capable of mobilizing the many and diverse organizations with an interest in afterschool programs to influence public policy at the national, state, and local levels, and to advocate on issues related to government funding for these programs.
2. A successful fundraiser, with a track record that includes having raised significant grants from foundations, corporations, and other donors.
3. Knowledgeable about the way the federal government appropriates money and sets policies, especially in the fields of education and youth development.
4. Capable of creating and working effectively with bipartisan coalitions that will be necessary to increase public spending on afterschool programs.
5. An excellent communicator, able to motivate, inspire, and persuade public officials, funders, the media, and the expanding afterschool community.
6. Knowledgeable about the effective management of nonprofit organizations, especially organizations that focus on advocacy and building public understanding and support.
7. A skilled manager, capable of building and leading a dedicated staff.
8. Able to develop a strong working relationship with a board of directors made up of diverse individuals dedicated to the success of the Afterschool Alliance.
9. Committed to the Alliance's mission, and the ways in which afterschool programs can benefit children, families, and communities.
10. Able to travel, especially to partner organizations, donors, and key conferences throughout the country.

Desired Experience

The ideal executive director will have:

1. At least five years of broad-based, senior-level management experience at nonprofit organizations involved in public policy advocacy or in government policy-making.
2. At least five years experience in fundraising, with results that demonstrate solid ability.
3. Experience affecting policy at both the national and state or local levels.
4. Experience in education or youth development is desirable, but not required.

Compensation

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Compensation also includes a comprehensive benefits package.

To Apply

Please **e-mail** (or mail) a cover letter, resume, and three-year salary history (which will be held in strict confidence) to:

Larry H. Slesinger
Slesinger Management Services
5016 Westpath Terrace
Bethesda, MD 20816
Tel.: 301-320-0680
E-mail: Larry@SlesingerManagement.com (please include “Afterschool” in subject line; attached files in Microsoft Word or PDF only)

All applications will be acknowledged promptly as long as an e-mail address is provided.

(This job announcement can also be found at www.SlesingerManagement.com.)

The Afterschool Alliance is an Equal Opportunity Employer.