

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

<https://www.cbpp.org/>

Location: Washington, DC

Vice President for Housing Policy

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) is a high-caliber strategic policy institute that informs and shapes public policies to reduce poverty, promote equity, and build opportunity in a fiscally responsible manner. It has a national reputation for conducting rigorous research and analysis, developing evidence-based policy ideas and strategies, shaping a broad array of policy debates at the federal and state levels, and influencing policy outcomes on a range of critical issues. It focuses its efforts on improving the lives of people with low or moderate incomes and examines how policies affect particular groups, including people of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ people. The Center is known for its unique capacity to blend rigorous, timely analysis with effective communications that enable policymakers and the media to make use of its work.

The Center's Housing Policy team is a leading source of expertise on federal low-income housing programs, with a strong record of advancing policies that improve the effectiveness of federal rental assistance and helping to drive the national conversation around affordable housing for low-income people. The team is committed to undoing the legacy of racist and discriminatory housing policies that have harmed low-income people of color and promoting public policies that advance economic justice and increase low-income people's access to quality, affordable housing in a neighborhood of their choice. People are at the center of our work. We believe that access to quality, affordable rental housing of choice is essential to people's well-being and that well-designed rental assistance programs can reduce poverty and support health, educational achievement, upward economic mobility, social connection, and economic and racial equity. The Housing Policy team undertakes extensive work on a range of issues, including:

- Expanding Housing Choice Vouchers to enable many more low-income people to live in decent, affordable homes and ensuring that Housing Choice Vouchers and other federal rental assistance programs are adequately funded and effective, particularly for people with the lowest incomes.
- Advancing federal housing policies that reduce housing instability and homelessness, expand families' access to safe neighborhoods with good schools and other opportunities, improve people's health, and promote people's dignity, respect, and choice.
- Addressing inequities in housing access for a variety of vulnerable people or people who face discrimination, including people of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, seniors, and families with children.

- Defending against policy and program changes that threaten to reduce the number of people with federal rental assistance or make assistance less effective at helping people — particularly those with the lowest incomes — afford decent housing in a neighborhood of their choice.

The Vice President for Housing Policy provides leadership and strategic direction for the Housing Policy team, working collaboratively with team members to develop and execute a policy agenda on a wide range of issues affecting low-income people. The Vice President also works in close collaboration with the Center's President, staff on the Communications and Government Affairs teams, and policy experts on other teams (such as Health, Federal Fiscal Policy, and Family Income Support) to develop and implement policy-related goals and strategies. The Vice President is a principal spokesperson for the Center on housing issues and elevates the profile of the team's other experts to maximize the Center's impact. The Vice President and team members provide information, data, and technical assistance to an array of important stakeholders concerned about low-income housing, including policymakers, journalists, and other organizations. The Vice President also works closely with the Center's Development team to ensure financial support for CBPP's housing policy work and serves as a member of the Center's leadership team, which helps set the direction of the organization as a whole.

Responsibilities:

Policy Development, Analysis, and Strategy

- Develop a research and policy agenda in collaboration with Housing team members and other policy experts inside and outside the Center.
- Set long-term housing policy goals and develop effective strategies to advance the team's policy work through partnerships, issue campaigns, and written products; work closely with the Communications team to develop strategies that help shape policy debates.
- Serve as a key thought leader to the President, Government Affairs team, and policy experts on other teams and to partner organizations in the broader low-income housing policy field.
- Serve as a nationally recognized spokesperson for the Center on housing issues for the media and at conferences, events, and other speaking engagements.
- Set and implement equity goals that shape how the team works together, its partnerships, and its research and policy agenda. Along with other Housing team staff, respond to media inquiries on housing, analyze legislation and regulations, and educate policymakers, including legislators, government officials, advocates, and others on federal rental assistance programs.

- Elevate the profile of the team's other experts and leverage expertise from staff across the organization to maximize the Center's impact.

Research, Writing, Editing

- Direct the written products of the housing team, including policy and research reports, regulatory comments, legislation, blogs, tweets, and commentary.
- Review and edit most written materials to ensure that all products further the policy objectives of the Housing team; provide timely and helpful feedback on the structure, accuracy, and strategic value of staff members' drafts; author or co-author written products.
- Oversee the development of new policy ideas and program recommendations that are informed by the latest rigorous research and by people with lived experience using rental assistance programs or experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness.
- Ensure that the team applies an equity lens to policy development and research by considering the potential impacts of proposals on a wide range of populations, including Black, Latino, Asian, and other communities of color; immigrants; Indigenous people; people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people; and others.
- Consult with academic experts, partner organizations – including those working with people with lived experience using rental assistance or experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness— and policy experts inside and outside the Center to inform the team's research and policy priorities.

Management and Supervision

- Supervise team operations, including developing and maintaining systems and practices for effective project and staff management, such as weekly team meeting agendas and work plans.
- Implement team equity goals that shape how the team works together, its partnerships, and its research and policy agenda.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships within the Housing team and with staff across the Center, including supporting cross-team initiatives.
- Build trust and rapport among different constituencies, effectively manage across lines of difference, and lead conversations that consider policy and strategic trade-offs.
- Guide the professional growth and development of staff at varying points in their career trajectory.

- Ensure that the Housing team's work is integrated with and supports the organization's overall policy agenda.
- Participate in the management of the overall organization, including efforts to improve organizational health, equity, and inclusion.

Development

- Develop strong relationships with foundations that fund or are interested in housing policy work.
- Work closely with the President and the Development team to identify and cultivate funders to support policy and research activities.
- Help conceive, draft, and review new funding proposals, reports, and other funder communications in collaboration with development writers.

Qualifications

- Deep expertise in one or more federal housing programs that serve people with the lowest incomes, broad knowledge of housing policy issues for people with low incomes, and experience working at a senior level to affect housing policy outcomes at the federal or state level.
- Exceptional leadership skills, a highly collaborative management style, the ability to cultivate trust and emotional connections and navigate interpersonal dynamics in a remote environment, and the ability to draw on and develop the expertise of people from diverse backgrounds and experiences.
- A sophisticated understanding of the role that racial inequity and discrimination play in housing policy, and a commitment to advancing racial justice and other forms of equity — both through the team's mission, internal functioning, partnerships, and policy work and as part of the Center's internal organizational initiative on racial justice and other forms of equity.
- Demonstrated experience working effectively and inclusively in partnership with other key organizations, including sharing power in the service of achieving shared goals.
- Strategic thinking and persuasive communication skills, including an ability to think tactically about opportunities to affect policy and to balance competing priorities and interests.
- Experience developing and analyzing policy and programmatic options that address equity for a wide range of populations, including people of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, and others.

- Excellent communication skills, particularly the ability to effectively relay messages to policymakers, partner organizations, and members of the media.
- An exceptional ability to respond to multiple demands in a complex, fast-paced, and rapidly changing policy environment.
- Lived expertise or experience working with people who have been marginalized due to their race, disability, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, housing status, or for other reasons is highly desirable.
- Proven effectiveness at fundraising and working collaboratively with other partner organizations and stakeholders is highly desirable.
- A demonstrated ability to develop relationships with policymakers and government officials is important.
- Candidates must have at least ten years of experience; a graduate degree in a relevant field is highly desirable.

This position is based in Washington, D.C. The location is temporarily flexible while we remain teleworking due to COVID-19.

This position reports to the President.

Terms of Employment: Full-time, exempt.

Bargaining Unit Status: This is not a bargaining unit position.

Compensation:

Salary commensurate with experience, excellent benefits (including health insurance, vision and dental coverage, life and long-term disability insurance, retirement, MERP, and DCAP), and generous vacation, sick leave, and holiday schedules.

Please upload a cover letter and resume. In your cover letter, please include a discussion of what draws you to the mission of the Center.

Please submit your application [here](#).

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is an Equal Opportunity Employer that values and welcomes diversity in the workplace and strongly encourages all qualified persons to apply regardless of race, color, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, credit information, pregnancy or parental status, family responsibilities, personal appearance, creed, military or veteran status, religion, ancestry or national origin, union activities, disability, or other status protected by applicable law.