



**NETWORK is rooted in Catholic Social Justice and the lived experience of real people.  
We are open to all who share our passion.**

### **Government Relations Advocate/Lobbyist: Justice Systems Reform**

Start Date: Fall 2021 (remotely until safe to be in the office)  
Permanent, Full-Time, Based in D.C. | **\$65,000**, plus generous benefits

**About NETWORK:** A national network of social justice advocates – and the organization behind Nuns on the Bus – NETWORK educates, organizes, and lobbies for economic and social transformation. Founded in 1971 by Catholic Sisters in the progressive spirit of Vatican II, NETWORK works to “Build Anew” by advocating for federal policies that dismantle systemic racism, eliminate the wealth and income gap, improve the well-being of our communities, and allow all people to thrive – especially those most often left out: women, people of color, people on the economic margins, and those at the intersections of these identities. We value women’s leadership, we appreciate people from religious and secular backgrounds, we affirm members of the LGBTQ+ community, and we engage in the ongoing work to become a multicultural, anti-racist organization.

**Why this position matters:** The Justice Systems Reform Lobbyist will lead our organization's efforts to transform our criminal legal system through federal policy. They will work in our Government Relations team to make sure NETWORK has relationships and clout with federal policymakers and that our policy strategies are clear and effective. They will amplify the voices of marginalized communities in policy conversations and represent NETWORK in a way that advances our mission, projects our views effectively, and establishes us as the leading voice at the intersection of Catholic Social Justice and public policy.

#### **You could be our next Justice Systems Reform Lobbyist if you have:**

- 4-7 years of progressive professional experience in lobbying, advocacy, policy, or politics, including 3-5 years of experience in federal government relations or issue advocacy.
- Strong knowledge of and experience with advocating for Criminal Justice Reform at the federal level – and additional experience with democracy reform or other issues in NETWORK's policy agenda – particularly as they intersect with structural racism.
- The ability to create legislative strategies, effectively advocate, and integrate with field and communication teams/strategies.
- Experience with lobbying (from either side of the table), and working with faith-based and secular coalitions.
- A commitment to the principles of social justice and to creating a multi-cultural, anti-racist organization.
- A track-record of success working on government relations teams and implementing policy strategies.
- Experience in a detail-oriented position that required a high level of organizational skills.

#### **What you are great at:**

- Creating focused policy goals and strategies to achieve them
- Working under pressure, independently and on a team, meeting deadlines, and managing multiple projects
- Being an excellent communicator, an analytical strategist, an organized collaborator, and a persuasive leader
- Developing strategy, lobbying, advocating, collaborating, relationship-building, and organizing
- Working in, contributing to and building up highly effective teams

#### **What you'll do in this role:**

- *Issue Leader*
  - Lead the organization's policy work for Justice Systems Reform and other issues within NETWORK's agenda
  - Analyze legislation and issues through the lens of Catholic Social Justice principles and collaborate with the team to determine positions, arguments, talking points, etc.
  - Research background on issues, and direct staff and volunteers in research projects
  - Educate policymakers so NETWORK messaging is echoed in the public arena; find opportunities to raise NETWORK's profile and messaging on the Hill and in the Administration

- Develop and implement legislative and Administrative strategy to promote passage of policy goals
  - ✓ Create political strategy identifying key Members of Congress and Administration to move the NETWORK agenda forward
  - ✓ Lobby Members of Congress and develop relationships with key congressional staff
  - ✓ Together with NETWORK teams, create campaigns that are creative and engage our Spirit-filled network of justice seekers
  - ✓ Strategically utilize elections as a means to bring attention to the issues – or to target our efforts for electoral impact
- *Relationship Builder*
  - Develop and cultivate relationships with policymakers who are strategic in promoting NETWORK's agenda
  - Build relationships with the Administration, Hill leadership, and key caucuses
  - Establish and meet Hill meeting goals, securing those “with us,” and building relationships with other Members and their offices
  - Strengthen NETWORK's reach through coalition participation/leadership – and identify potential new partners – with an eye toward diversity and unlikely partners
- *Staff Commitments*
  - Collaborate with other NETWORK teams to implement strategy and achieve organizational buy-in
  - Supervise/mentor staff or student volunteers
  - Keep records on lobby activity
  - Participate in organizational activities: planning, evaluation, development

### **What it's like working at NETWORK:**

Founded by Catholic Sisters, NETWORK is open to all who share our passion for social and racial justice. Staff and members are people from a variety of religious and nonreligious backgrounds. As an organization and workplace, NETWORK values work-life balance and strives to be a supportive workplace to foster the growth and well-being of staff as we work for justice. [Read More.](#)

### **Note on Current Reality / Work-from-Home Policy:**

Due to the pandemic, NETWORK has encouraged everyone to work from home and only commute to the office if absolutely necessary and if it can be done safely. Applicants will begin this job working at home full-time, but this is not a remote position. Once it is safe to commute, the expectation is that this position will need to be present in NETWORK's D.C. office on a regular basis. In 2022 we will be launching a new Work-from-Home policy rooted in in-office Collaboration Days while providing great flexibility for those who want to work from home.

### **Benefit details:**

- Starting salary: \$65,000/year
- Additional \$1,200/year to help cover commute/work-from-home costs
- Generous time off: 2 weeks paid vacation, Christmas week off, 12 additional holidays, 2 personal days
- Platinum level health plan – as well as dental and vision – at no cost to you
- Generous retirement plan and parental leave after one year
- Four staff retreat days; an organizational commitment to professional development and wellness

### **How to apply:**

**Cover letter:** 2-3 paragraphs in an email (not attached, but written in the body of the email) telling us why you're interested in this position, why you are qualified, why you want to be a part of the NETWORK team, and where you found us. Give us a sense of the level of responsibility, complexity, and creativity of the lobbying work you've engaged in.

**Resume:** Attach a resume. While you may focus on lobbying/strategy experience, please include all experience so we get a good picture of what you've been up to.

**Email:** Send materials to Laura Peralta-Schulte, Chief Lobbyist at [employment@networklobby.org](mailto:employment@networklobby.org). Please include “Lobbyist” in the subject line.

**Timing:** This position will stay open as long as needed – until we find the right candidate. We'll be screening candidates on a rolling basis so please apply promptly. You will receive an automated reply right away, and we anticipate contacting all candidates again in early October to let them know their status in our process.

*It is the policy of NETWORK to conduct all personnel activities in a manner that will ensure equal opportunity for all persons without regard to religion, race, creed, gender, color, age, national origin, marital status, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Every employee has the right to work in dignity in an environment free from all forms of discrimination or harassment.*