



POSITION OPENING: Policy Associate/Senior Policy Associate, Housing Stability and Resident Wellbeing

LOCATION: Washington, DC—Gallery Place/City Center (virtual as required due to COVID-19)

SALARY: Commensurate with experience

Stewards of Affordable Housing or [SAHF](#) is a collaborative of thirteen exemplary [multi-state nonprofit affordable housing providers](#) who own more than 148,000 affordable rental homes. SAHF members are committed to long-term affordability, sustainability and expansion of rental housing that makes a difference in people’s lives. SAHF’s mission is to advance the creation and preservation of healthy, sustainable affordable rental homes that foster equity, opportunity, and wellness for people of limited economic resources.

SAHF and its members apply on-the-ground experience to advance change in policy and practice. They leverage one another’s best practices and collaborate with one another and SAHF’s affiliate, [NAHT](#), on business and mission opportunities. SAHF focuses on pursuing innovation where the scale of the collaborative can have unique and substantial impact. SAHF and its members are committed to scaling their successes through business innovations and policy change. Examples include SAHF’s work to improve health outcomes for low-income individuals and families through [practice-based policy](#), [thought leadership and best practices](#), [financing innovations](#) and [healthy building practices](#).

SAHF’s members provide resident services in many of their properties and are deeply committed to identifying those services that can most effectively make a difference in people’s lives. As a collaborative, they are committed to working both independently and together not only on policy that supports the creation and preservation of affordable homes, but also on resident services, housing operations and management, healthy building practices and energy and water conservation. SAHF members are also committed to measuring their impact, leveraging data to evaluate outcomes to foster new partnerships, collaborations and initiatives. Please see our recent [Building to Impact](#) report as an example.

SAHF and its members acknowledge the significant role that decades of housing policy has played in creating and perpetuating racial inequity and recognize that access to healthy, affordable homes for all people is an essential step towards just communities. Healthy homes are homes that connect people to opportunities and the resources they need to thrive and that support residents’ sense of well-being and agency. SAHF has embarked on a journey to understand how housing providers can better facilitate greater resident agency, voice, and power in an effort to support racial equity and resident wellbeing.

JOB DESCRIPTION

This dynamic position on SAHF’s policy team allows for significant independence, strategic thinking and the opportunity to manage a portfolio of federal policy issues and knowledge sharing initiatives at the intersection of affordable housing and resident services, such as digital inclusion. SAHF’s [Outcomes Initiative](#) focuses on how quality affordable housing and often, related services, can contribute to positive outcomes in residents’ lives. SAHF has played a leadership role in identifying strategies to scale and improve the effectiveness of service enriched housing, including through the development of [CORES](#) (Certified Organization for Resident Engagement and Services) – a new initiative to support accountability and performance in service-enriched affordable housing. This position will play a leadership role in identifying opportunities to better leverage resident services and service coordination in federal housing policy and programs. This position offers the opportunity to deepen skills in policy and advocacy, data collection and analytics, report writing, facilitation and project management. It also provides an excellent opportunity to interface with leaders and experts in housing and resident services.

Roles and Responsibilities: The Policy Associate will act as the key connection point between the Policy team and the Resident Health and Outcomes team at SAHF. The Policy Associate, Resident Outcomes reports to the SVP, Policy. This role will also consult regularly with the Director, Resident Outcomes and VP, Health & Housing. The Associate is expected to interface with the SAHF board and members as well as outside partners and organizations. The Policy Associate, will have the following broad job responsibilities:

Policy

- Research federal housing programs (e.g. Section 8, Section 202, LIHTC) to identify limitations and opportunities to leverage programs and services that improve resident wellbeing and outcomes, including but not limited to resident services coordination, internet connections and virtual services, financial coaching, FSS, health and wellness services and housing stability supports. This work will require an understanding of affordable housing programs and operations.
- Proactively manage the development of proposals and comment on federal housing policy guidance (HUD, USDA, Treasury letters, notices and handbooks), regulations and legislation to foster housing policies and programs that support service enriched housing and increase opportunities for resident voice and agency.
- In collaboration with Resident Outcomes team examine promising practices for housing stability utilized in the COVID-19 crisis and identify policy levers to support scaling of these practices in affordable housing properties.
- Advocate, individually and in coalitions, to increase, preserve and enhance affordable rental housing programs enhanced with services.
- Support SVP Policy and Director of Resident Outcomes and CORES in research and advocacy around innovative approaches to financing resident services.

Data and Analysis

- Support SAHF's Policy and Resident Outcomes work by collaborating with the Data and Analytics Manager and SVP Policy to interpret resident outcomes data in the context of federal housing programs. This includes outreach to SAHF members and partners for better understanding program and practices.
- Using resident outcomes data and peer exchange, identify opportunities for policy clarifications and improvements that will foster resident well-being.
- Support Data and Analytics Manager in identifying opportunities and limitations related to data collection and analysis in federal housing programs.

Digital Inclusion

- Serve as primary project manager and subject matter expert for SAHF's work to address inequities by identifying strategies to ensure that all residents have access to high speed internet connections and fully capable devices needed to access health, employment and education opportunities.
- Engage with affordable housing owners and internet service providers on their past experience with and interest in digital inclusion initiatives.
- Develop and refine case studies that illustrate strategies used by affordable housing providers to connect residents with high speed internet and devices.
- Collaborate with Data and Analytics Manager on data collection around resident connectivity and to identify categories of barriers.
- Draw on member experiences to support development of policy proposals that further digital inclusion and identify new areas for partnership.
- Develop and steward relationships with coalition partners that work on digital inclusion initiatives.

Meeting Planning, Support and Facilitation; Presentations; and Conference Support and Participation:

- Assist with convening, roundtable and conference planning, including content and agenda setting, logistics and note taking.
- Develop and support presentations for meetings and conferences, to be delivered by other SAHF staff or by the associate.
- Represent SAHF as requested at conferences or meetings.

Qualifications:

This is a new position that will help our policy and resident outcomes team elevate promising practices and findings from our resident outcomes work to create and advance policy proposals that improve the well-being of residents of affordable multifamily rental housing. The ideal candidate will have policy experience and an understanding of affordable housing and/or resident services programs.

- Personal commitment to [SAHF's mission and values](#)
- Bachelor's degree with strong academic credentials required. Master's degree preferred
- Work experience in state or federal policy and/or programs related to affordable housing or human services
- Familiarity and or experience with affordable housing programs such as the Section 8 project based rental assistance, Section 202 Housing for the Elderly, Section 811, Low Income Housing Tax Credits, the Resident Services Coordinator grant program preferred
- Excellent writer
- Strong analytic, project management, organization and presentation skills
- Experience communicating policy issues or programmatic concepts to members of different disciplines
- Experience working in coalitions for the purposes of program development and policy advocacy
- Ability and desire to work in an interdisciplinary team and serve as bridge between policy and practice
- Committed to collaboration, excellent customer service and SAHF's mission

SAHF is committed to a diverse and inclusive workforce and encourages all candidates, especially those who have been historically underrepresented based on race/ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, socioeconomic status, citizenship status, or religion, to apply. On a daily basis, we are committed to our core values of Respect, Diversity and Inclusion, Collaboration, Stewardship and Integrity. You can learn more about us on [our website](#).

Submit resumes to jobs@sahfnet.org. Due to the volume of resumes usually received, we regret that we cannot individually respond to all candidates.