



**GROUND
ED
SOLUTIONS
NETWORK**

strong communities
from the ground up

National Policy Director Washington, DC



If you are interested in this exceptional opportunity, please submit a detailed resume immediately to:

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Should you have any questions in consideration of your own interest, or a referral of a colleague, please contact us at the number above.

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Grounded Solutions Network

Grounded Solutions Network is national nonprofit membership organization of nonprofits and local governments committed to creating and preserving housing with lasting affordability to advance racial equity. They provide training, technical assistance, technology solutions, resources, and research for their members and POC-led nonprofits and community groups adopting community land trusts and permanently affordable housing solutions. Their work specifically targets creating and expanding the resources dedicated to community-led housing with lasting affordability, using a racial equity lens.

They also recognize that systems change requires structural work on the policy level; therefore, they increasingly engage in local policy development with community leaders and policy makers as well as local, state, and federal advocacy work to alter racist housing and land use policies into enabling environments that advance racial and social justice.

Grounded Solutions Network is committed to fostering an organizational culture rooted in critical thinking and consciousness about race and class. We seek candidates who are dedicated to achieving racial equity and are committed to building a team that is as racially and culturally diverse as the communities that we serve. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.

Housing is a Fundamental Right



About the Position

The National Policy Director will help to design and lead the short-term and long-term policy agenda for the organization's priorities for federal legislation, regulations, policies, and programs, as well as strategies to increase access to real estate and mortgage financing. Additionally—but secondarily—this position will identify emerging state legislative opportunities that could result in scaling permanently affordable housing and provide support for coalitions and campaigns. The ideal candidate will bring deep experience and a commitment to centering a racial equity lens in strategically advancing innovative housing policy and advocacy solutions that reverse disparities and improve outcomes for communities of color.

Core Components

- Conducting federal and state legislative, regulatory, and policy analysis.
- Communicating with and mobilizing members and stakeholders on advocacy efforts, including writing policy briefs and support materials for effective advocacy.
- Acting as the representative of Grounded Solutions in coalitions and cultivating strategic partnerships.
- Meeting with Congressional offices, federal agencies, public officials, and financial institutions for education and advocacy.
- Promoting public awareness of the affordable housing models and solutions the organization represents and the challenges faced by the shared equity housing field.

The National Policy Director must be able to work independently and collaboratively, have discerning judgement about what should be raised to executive leadership, and—most of all—be driven to accomplish major policy wins for the field, especially at the federal level. This position will work collaboratively with staff, our network members, partners, consultants, and external stakeholders to foster relationships and lead effective partnerships focused on new and improved policies that will increase access to resources at local, state, and national levels.

The National Policy Director will foster a positive organizational culture and be excellent at cross-department coordination. This position reports to the VP of National Strategy and is a part of the organization's senior leadership team. The Director will not supervise internal staff, but they will be responsible for managing projects and consultants with minimal oversight.

Key Responsibilities

Program and Strategy Development

- Establish short-term and long-term policy priorities and a multi-year policy agenda in consultation with executive leadership and key stakeholders.
- Create and manage elements of the annual workplan and budget.
- Track congressional activity, partner communications, and media related to shared equity housing expansion goals and federal policy priorities.
- Strategically build and maintain relationships with partners, Congress, federal agencies, etc. to advance legislation and rule-making that scales the field.
- Design and implement strategies to increase effective member and stakeholder engagement in advocacy.
- Identify solutions and work in partnership and coalitions for issues impacting the permanently affordable housing field and the broader affordable housing field related to federal programs, funding, and financing.
- Foster new opportunities and strategies to scale housing with lasting affordability, especially those that serve people of color, and confer with the Senior Leadership Team and Executive Leadership about strategy and priorities

Program Implementation

- Track and analyze emerging legislation, proposed rules, regulations, and institutional policies to evaluate impact and potential points of intervention and draft appropriate written products (e.g., draft bill proposals, public comments, Congressional meeting protocols, policy briefs).
- Collect targeted data in coordination with the Research Department to meet requests of Congress, federal agencies, and financial institutions.
- Meet with, present to, and establish relationships in Congressional offices and committees, federal agencies, financial institutions, and other strategic partnerships to advance program agenda.
- Oversee of the content planning and implementation of organization's Congressional Conference and other Congressional office meetings (when applicable).
- Support members and field to engage in local and national advocacy; draft supportive materials, such as talking points, fact sheets, and other resources.
- Partner with national organizations and participate in coalitions that advance our policy agenda and recommend what the organization will endorse and what our members should be asked to participate in.
- Coordinate partnerships with the Government Sponsored Enterprises, lending institutions, and trade associations to increase access to sound and competitive financing for shared equity homebuyers and for nonprofits to obtain needed financing and funding.
- Support executive leadership in the pursuit or implementation of special projects aimed at scaling the field.
- Coordinate and collaborate across the organization to maximize the impact of policy work and the goals and priorities of other departments.
- Contribute to thought leadership in the field through presentations, articles, reports, and media coverage.
- Measure and critically evaluate implementation activities and make recommendations for improvements.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

The ideal candidate will have 8+ years' experience, preferably in affordable housing and federal programs, policy, and/or government relations. This position is best suited to a person with excellent organizational, project, and time management skills who is also a highly skilled writer, speaker, and presenter.

- Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Public Policy, Government Affairs, or a related field.
- Strong knowledge of many HUD programs, especially HOME and CDBG, and the housing finance system (e.g., FHA, VA, USDA, FHFA and the GSEs).
- Deep understanding of how systemic racism has shaped and continues to shape local, state, and federal housing policy and community development.
- Experience with both federal legislative and rule-making processes; Congressional staff experience preferred.
- Basic knowledge of shared equity homeownership or community land trusts.
- Highly organized, structured and detail oriented. Able to self-manage with minimal supervision.

- Strong analytic and strategic oral and written communication skills, including (but not limited to) the ability to shape bipartisan messages, balance evidence- and advocacy-based rationales, and craft tone, style, and content for various audiences.
- Proven ability to analyze, and formulate implications of/responses to federal legislation, rules, policies, etc.
- Strong ability to build relationships and trust amongst various audiences and stakeholders.
- Proven ability to work successfully in self-directed environments to strategically advance policy goals.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively project manage and manage independent consultants.
- Proven ability to prioritize and concurrently make progress on detail-oriented work, large-scale projects, team-based assignments, and long-term objectives.
- Ability to work and communicate in diverse communities.
- Proficiency in MS Office Suite & tech friendly.

Travel

- Approximately 4-8 trips per year (post-COVID) of domestic out-of-state, as needed to attend conferences, events, and company meetings.

Location

- This is a full-time position based in the Washington, DC office. Incumbent may work a hybrid schedule that allows flexibility to work in-office and remote.
- Must have direct local access to a major airport. All staff are expected to demonstrate the ability to work remotely while maintaining high levels of efficiency and productivity and communicating effectively with their direct supervisor and colleagues.

COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement

- Grounded Solutions Network is requiring all staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by January 1, 2022. All candidates must be fully vaccinated or plan to be fully vaccinated by their start date or by January 1, 2022, whichever comes later. 'Fully vaccinated' means that two weeks have passed since a second dose of the 2-dose series for the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson's vaccine. Offers of employment will be contingent on compliance with Grounded Solutions Network's COVID-19 vaccination policy. A current employee or applicant (i) who has a disability or qualifying medical condition that contraindicates a COVID-19 vaccination, (ii) whose sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice conflicts with the vaccination requirement, or (iii) who qualifies for an exemption under applicable state or local law may request an exemption from this vaccination policy.

Grounded Solutions Network Offers:

- Comprehensive benefits package including health, dental, matching 401k, and paid time off.
- Supportive, stimulating, and collaborative environment with passionate colleagues dedicated to building community and equity.
- Opportunities for professional growth and development.

Starting Salary Range

- \$105-125K annually, commensurate with experience.



Washington DC also referred to as the District of Columbia, Washington, the District, or DC, is unique among American cities because it was established by the Constitution of the United States to serve as the nation's capital. Washington, DC is not only the home to the federal government, but is also a vibrant city where people live, work and play.

The city is known for its monuments and museums, national landmarks, cultural events, musical and theatrical entertainment and sporting events. The District of Columbia has a population of about 599,000; however, with the surrounding suburbs the metropolitan area has a population of more than 5.3 million making it the ninth-largest metropolitan area in the country.

The Washington, DC area has a wide diversity of neighborhoods - from urban communities bustling with activity to family-friendly suburban communities to quiet rural areas with lots of green space.

Historic Sites and Museums

The National Mall is a large, open park in downtown Washington between the Lincoln Memorial and the United States Capitol. Given its prominence, the mall is often the location of political protests, concerts, festivals, and presidential inaugurations. The Washington Monument and the Jefferson Pier are near the center of the mall, south of the White House. Also on the mall are the National World War II Memorial at the east end of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the

Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Directly south of the mall, the Tidal Basin features rows of Japanese cherry blossom trees that originated as gifts from the nation of Japan. The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, George Mason Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and the District of Columbia War Memorial are around the Tidal Basin.

The National Archives houses thousands of documents important to American history including the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Located in three buildings on Capitol Hill, the Library of Congress is the largest library complex in the world with a collection of over 147 million books, manuscripts, and other materials. The United States Supreme Court Building was completed in 1935; before then, the court held sessions in the Old Senate Chamber of the Capitol.

The Smithsonian Institution is an educational foundation chartered by Congress in 1846 that maintains most of the nation's official museums and galleries in Washington, D.C. The U.S. government partially funds the Smithsonian, and its collections are open to the public free of charge. The Smithsonian's locations had a combined total of 30 million visits in 2013. The most visited museum is the National Museum of Natural History on the National Mall. Other Smithsonian Institution museums and galleries on the mall are: the National Air and Space Museum; the National Museum of African Art; the National Museum of American History; the National Museum of the American Indian; the Sackler and Freer galleries, which both focus on Asian art and culture; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; the Arts and Industries Building; the S. Dillon Ripley Center; and the Smithsonian Institution Building (also known as "The Castle"), which serves as the institution's headquarters.



The Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery are housed in the Old Patent Office Building, near Washington's Chinatown. The Renwick Gallery is officially part of the Smithsonian American Art Museum but is in a separate building near the White House. Other Smithsonian museums and galleries include: the Anacostia Community Museum in Southeast Washington; the National Postal Museum near Union Station; and the National Zoo in Woodley Park.

The National Gallery of Art is on the National Mall near the Capitol and features works of American and European art. The gallery and its collections are owned by the U.S. government but are not a part of the Smithsonian Institution. The National Building Museum,

which occupies the former Pension Building near Judiciary Square, was chartered by Congress and hosts exhibits on architecture, urban planning, and design.

Arts

Washington, D.C., is a national center for the arts. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is home to the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington National Opera, and the Washington Ballet. The Kennedy Center Honors are awarded each year to those in the performing arts who have contributed greatly to the cultural life of the United States. The historic Ford's Theatre, site of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, continues to operate as a functioning performance space as well as museum.



The Marine Barracks near Capitol Hill houses the United States Marine Band; founded in 1798, it is the country's oldest professional musical organization. American march composer and Washington-native John Philip Sousa led the Marine Band from 1880 until 1892. Founded in 1925, the United States Navy Band has its headquarters at the Washington Navy Yard and performs at official events and public concerts around the city.

Washington has a strong local theater tradition. Founded in 1950, Arena Stage achieved national attention and spurred growth in the city's independent theater movement that now includes organizations such as the Shakespeare Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, and the Studio Theatre. Arena Stage opened its newly renovated home in the city's emerging Southwest waterfront area in 2010. The GALA Hispanic Theatre, now housed in the historic Tivoli Theatre in Columbia Heights, was founded in 1976 and is a National Center for the Latino Performing Arts.

The U Street Corridor in Northwest D.C., known as "Washington's Black Broadway", is home to institutions like the Howard Theatre, Bohemian Caverns, and the Lincoln Theatre, which hosted music legends such as Washington-native Duke Ellington, John Coltrane, and Miles Davis. Washington has its own native music genre called go-go; a post-funk, percussion-driven flavor of rhythm and blues that was popularized in the late 1970s by D.C. band leader Chuck Brown.



Sports

Washington is one of 12 cities in the United States with teams from all four major professional men's sports and is home to one major professional women's team. The Washington Wizards (National Basketball Association), the Washington Capitals (National Hockey League), and the Washington Mystics (Women's National Basketball Association), play at the Verizon Center in Chinatown. Nationals Park, which opened in Southeast D.C. in 2008, is home to the Washington Nationals (Major League Baseball). D.C. United (Major League Soccer) plays at RFK Stadium. The Washington Redskins (National Football League) play at nearby FedExField in Landover, Maryland.

Higher Education

Private universities include American University (AU), the Catholic University of America (CUA), Gallaudet University, George Washington University (GW), Georgetown University (GU), Howard University, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). The Corcoran College of Art and Design provides specialized arts instruction and other higher-education institutions offer continuing, distance and adult education.

The District is known for its medical research institutions such as Washington Hospital Center and the Children's National Medical Center, as well as the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. In addition, the city is home to three medical schools and associated teaching hospitals at George Washington, Georgetown, and Howard universities.

