

# United Ways of Texas

## Mental Health Policy Fellow

### **Description:**

United Ways of Texas seeks to hire a Mental Health Policy Fellow to support UWT's policy work and advocacy efforts leading up to, during, and following the 86<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Texas Legislature. The fellow will focus on policy issues related to behavioral health, including mental health and substance use in under-resourced Texas communities and support the engagement and empowerment of local United Ways, nonprofit leaders in their communities in policy and advocacy to ensure systems, services, and supports are responsive and appropriate to the diverse and unique needs of Texas communities. The projects and activities of the fellow will support local, regional, and statewide policy and advocacy efforts aimed at addressing systemic barriers to community behavioral health and wellbeing.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

1. Develop and maintain relationships with local United Way staff and other relevant stakeholders;
2. Support and provide technical assistance to local United Ways in serving as convener, capacity builder, and thought leader on transforming behavioral health policies, practices, and systems;
3. Engage, coordinate, and collaborate on statewide policy and advocacy initiatives aimed at improving policies and programs at the state level, including various coalitions.
4. Educate key stakeholders, including policymakers, on needs of under-resourced Texas communities and opportunities for effective behavioral health policy;
5. Assist in development, tracking, organization and advancement of United Ways of Texas legislative priorities related to behavioral health;
6. Mobilize and empower local United Ways, volunteers, and partner agencies to effectively drive systems-levels improvements;
7. Research and write analyses on current behavioral health policy issues; brief policymakers, and civic leaders; and engage with advocates and community groups.
8. Expected to work independently and as functional part of collaborative team.

Some travel maybe required. Suitable applicants will be expected to cultivate and maintain relationships with local United Way staff as well as other working groups, legislative representatives and their staff, state-level partners, business and relevant persons in the health and human services industry as it relates to advocacy and community engagement.

**Qualifications:**

*Required:* Recent graduate (within 18 months) of a post-graduate program in law, social work, public policy, psychology, public health, or related program.

*Preferred:* excellent interpersonal skills, policy research and advocacy, nonprofits, community engagement, data analysis, communications, public speaking, analytical/critical thinking skills; self-starter; ability to exercise independent judgment and work efficiently with minimal supervision; ; ability to foster and maintain positive relationships with diverse groups; exceptional written and verbal communication skills; highly organized; detail-oriented; proficient in MS Office; and knowledge of and passionate commitment for nonprofit business.

**About United Ways of Texas**

United Ways of Texas is the voluntary state association of Texas United Ways. With 68 United Way members statewide, the association works to represent the public policy interests of our members, provide members education opportunities and lead statewide initiatives designed to improve Texas communities.

We offer a generous benefits package including health, dental and vision, with competitive sick and vacation leave, a 401(k) plan plus much more.

Full-time position at \$38,000 - \$42,750. **Start date on or around January 3, 2019.**

**To apply:**

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Email resume and cover letter to Kimberlee Brown at [kimberlee.brown@uwtexas.org](mailto:kimberlee.brown@uwtexas.org) . No phone calls or walk-in applicants. Relocation fees not paid. Equal Opportunity Employer.

United Ways of Texas is an equal opportunity employer. We actively seek to build an organization that reflects the diversity of the population served by local United Ways.