



of SANTA CLARA and
SAN MATEO COUNTIES

Position Announcement Vice President, Community Engagement & Policy

About Second Harvest Food Bank

Looking for mission-driven work? Based in Silicon Valley, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties is one of the largest food banks in the nation. Currently providing food to more than one quarter of a million people every month, Second Harvest is a trusted community-based organization that was founded in 1974. Despite the immense wealth in Silicon Valley, and partly due to the high cost of living, hunger and malnutrition are pervasive. The Food Bank distributes nutritious food, including more fresh produce than any other food bank in the country, through a network of nearly 320 nonprofit partners at more than 850 sites. Second Harvest is pursuing innovative efforts to increase access to food resources as it seeks to feed an additional 100,000 hungry people each month. To reach more people, it advocates for anti-hunger policies and connects those in need to federal nutrition programs and other food resources. To learn more about how Second Harvest is building a hunger-free community, visit www.SHFB.org.

About the Position

The VP of Community Engagement and Policy will build and nurture relationships with elected officials and community leaders, and advocate on behalf of SHFB and its participants. Actively engage the community to explore and implement opportunities to expand school breakfast and community meals for children and their families. Lead efforts to support administrative and systemic improvements to government nutrition programs. Engage in research to better understand food insecurity in order to more effectively serve those at risk of hunger. Communicate with the public, our supporters and community stakeholders to increase their knowledge and understanding of hunger.

Government Nutrition Programs

- Leads a team to develop and implement strategies to increase meals provided through federal children's nutrition programs
- Take a leadership role in working with school districts and community based organizations to optimize federal children's nutrition programs
- Work with SHFB's Programs and Services, agency partners and government agencies to support administrative and systems improvements to CalFresh

Community Engagement

- Develops and cultivates trusted relationships with "system" or "mission" partners – organizations and groups that are not primarily SHFB "agency partners" (food distribution partners) – to leverage complementary efforts and lead our community to eliminate hunger
 - Partners who serve our clients in adjacent spaces (housing, employment, health, education)
 - Partners working to build healthy, strong, empowered communities
 - Partners/groups focused on developing local food/ag policy
- Develops and cultivates trusted relationships with local elected officials and other city and county governmental personnel – to drive impact

CURTNER CENTER
750 Curtner Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125
T 408-266-8866
F 408-266-9042

CYPRESS CENTER
4001 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134
T 408-266-8866
F 408-266-9042

BING CENTER
1051 Bing Street
San Carlos, CA 94070
T 650-610-0800
F 650-610-0808

- Orchestrates multi-faceted community conversations about what it would truly take to end local hunger
- Provides leadership and serves on local committees representing SHFB's interests such as co-chairing Santa Clara County Safety Net Committee, Children's Nutrition Coalition, San Mateo No Hunger Work Group and San Mateo Food System Alliance

Policy and Advocacy

- Develops an annual SHFB public policy issues agenda focused on hunger, nutrition and community health
- Implements SHFB's federal, state and local policy agenda
 - Via community organizing, coalition building and recruitment/empowerment of advocates
 - Via media communication in conjunction with SHFB's MarComm Team
 - Via development/management of relationships with elected officials
- Develops collaborative relationships with other hunger-focused and system change policy organizations including Feeding America, California Association of Food Banks, California Food Policy Advocates, MAZON Jewish Response to Hunger, Food Research Action Center and Food Banks throughout the network
- Works with local and statewide groups – and SHFB's MarComm – to develop and communicate a compelling anti-hunger message
- Represents SHFB on national, state and local policy related collaboratives, coalitions, task forces and councils

Research and Education

- Acts as SHFB point person on research – for example, the Hunger Index with Santa Clara University – that can help inform advocacy and education about local hunger
- Orchestrates community events that bring attention to the issue of hunger and amplify our advocacy efforts

Other

- Serves as a member of the Senior Leadership Team at SHFB

Qualifications

- 10 years of successful experience in community engagement, public policy and/or advocacy required; Bachelor degree in related field desired and advanced degree preferred.
- Experience in policy research and/or legislative advocacy and driving a public policy agenda.
- Knowledge of and experience advocating on issues related to poverty, social justice, food security, food systems and other safety net services.
- Understanding of local, state and federal legislative processes.
- Demonstrated leadership qualities and exceptional relationship building skills. Ability to influence, work proactively and effectively to build consensus among cross-functional teams and external stakeholders.
- Proven experience in taking a leadership role with convening diverse community stakeholders toward common goals to achieve desired community outcomes.



- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to work and interact well with individuals from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds in a culturally diverse environment.
- Experience working with community leaders of the public and private sectors serving low-income populations in Santa Clara and/or San Mateo counties strongly preferred.
- Strong project management skills and ability to work on multiple projects, balance competing priorities to meet deadlines.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including ease with speaking in public and crafting presentations.
- Experience leading and developing an effective, collaborative, customer-focused team.
- Strong analytical capabilities to interpret data, research findings and to synthesize conclusions.
- Excellent strategic thinking and analysis skills
- Ability to be responsive and persuasive at all levels of the organization.
- Experience working in a non-profit and/or mission-driven organization is preferred.
- Ability to travel periodically outside of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.
- Possession of a valid California driver license and clean DMV record.

Reports To:	CEO
Positions Reporting to VP:	Manager of School Breakfast and Out-of-School Time Meals; Manager of Children’s Federal Nutrition Programs
Location:	Curtner Distribution Center – 750 Curtner Ave., San Jose, CA 95125
Hours:	Exempt, Full-time, Typically, Monday through Friday. Some Evening & Weekends
Compensation:	Competitive salary commensurate with background and experience. Outstanding and generous health benefits program, Flexible Time Off (FTO) starting at 200 hours/year, ten paid holidays, and retirement plan.

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EOE

UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

