



Director of Government Relations and Advocacy

The New York Library Association is seeking candidates for this full-time salaried, position of **Director of Government Relations and Advocacy**. The position is primarily responsible for the development and delivery of ongoing advocacy and communications to elected officials and library advocates about the value of libraries to education, economic development and as centers of community. This individual will develop and maintain positive relationships with policy makers and library community leaders, working with them to improve library funding, services and resources through advocacy, public policies, programs and regulations. While the primary activities of the position are related to advocacy, the individual is expected to integrate with the NYLA staff, and assist with general organization functioning and activities.

The successful candidate will be enthusiastic and have excellent interpersonal communication skills; they will be comfortable presenting to both small and large audiences. They will have a passion for library issues affecting the profession and the public, and will have an entrepreneurial spirit seeking to find new and creative ways to meet the dynamic needs of the association's members. A working knowledge of the library infrastructure of New York State is desirable. Travel throughout New York State to promote library advocacy at all levels is required (10% anticipated). The position will report directly to NYLA's Executive Director.

Qualifications & Qualities

Candidate should have experience with government relations, advocacy and legislative-related initiatives. They will have a demonstrated level of experience developing and successfully advancing policy initiatives. Candidates must also have exceptional written and oral communications skills, and possess a strong attention to detail and accuracy.

Preference will be to candidates with 3-5 years professional experience in the area of non-profit association government affairs. Minimum Education Required: BA/BS.

Government experience welcomed; those subject to a lobbying ban need not apply.

Compensation

Salary: \$65K Annually

NYLA offers a competitive benefits package including employer-paid health insurance, a 403-b retirement plan, paid holidays, vacation and sick time.

About NYLA

The New York Library Association (NYLA), an Albany based 501(c)3 non-profit membership association, representing over 7000 public, college, school and special librarians and libraries from throughout New York State.

Submit Resume and Cover Letter as PDF by October 15 to:

Jeremy Johannesen

NYLA Executive Director

director@nyla.org

Director of Government Relations and Advocacy

Job Description

Reports to: Executive Director

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Legislative

- Monitors and evaluates pending legislation and develops response
- Surveys legislation's impact on the library community
- Builds relationships with state and local authorities, regulatory agency heads and key policymakers through regular in-person visits
- Develops government affairs strategies
- Enhances the organization's image among authorities
- Writes testimony and talking points for campaigns

Communications

- Draft content for newsletters, correspondence, press releases, email and other forms of written communication regarding legislative and advocacy items
- Write weekly legislative and political affairs updates
- Provide updates to the Advocacy portion of the NYLA website
- Respond to inquiries from NYLA members and affiliates
- With the NYLA Executive Director, maintain partnership with State Agencies

Presenting / Education & Outreach

- Attend Albany legislative events (select committee meetings, hearings and events)
- Present on library advocacy issues in a wide array of venues throughout New York State
- Develop a year-round legislative program that incorporates ongoing advocate training and support of constituent activities that promote library issues

Event Logistics Support

- Coordinate legislative events including Library Advocacy Day
- Coordinate Legislative Committee Meetings and activities