Are you looking for the opportunity to bring legal tools to bear on the issues of drug use, access to medicines and minority access to health globally? Would you like to work on transforming power dynamics that govern drug regulations and improve access to decision-making for those most affected? If so, we are looking for people like you to join the grant-making team of the Open Society Foundation’s (OSF) Public Health Program (PHP). Our program advances a human rights approach to health, with an emphasis on social inclusion and reclaiming the public good in health. We work to make justice systems more responsive to health, to shift power dynamics in health-related decision-making, to challenge the health establishment to advance human rights, and to influence the funding environment for health and rights. The Public Health Program is unique in explicitly focusing on the political nature of health, not seeing it solely or primarily as a technical issue. More information about the Public Health Program can be found here.

Job Profile

OSF’s PHP seeks a full-time Program Officer (PO) based in New York, London or Budapest to develop and implement a portfolio of grants to advance access to justice as a health intervention. The PO is an integral part of the International Harm Reduction Development (IHRD) team and the Law Exchange. The IHRD team advocates for policies and practices that advance the health and human rights of people who use drugs and the PO acts as the legal specialist in the IHRD team. The Law Exchange, uses legal tools to advance the health rights of the most marginalized in society and acts throughout PHP’s programs to advance legal strategies in their work. Currently the portfolio of work of the PO includes:

- Improving access to justice as a health intervention, through “street lawyering” or support for community legal workers/paralegals for people who use drugs or other groups marginalized on the basis of real or perceived health status, and through support for strategic litigation where appropriate;
- Exposing and challenging the negative effects of drug control on access to health services;
- Exposing and challenging drug control’s limits on research into therapeutic benefits of currently illicit substances;
- Supporting legal reform around drug policy as it relates to the health and rights of people who use illicit drugs, those prescribed controlled substances, and those who prescribe them. Using legal tools to challenge involuntary treatment mandated through the criminal justice system.

This portfolio of work can be adapted depending on the skills and specific experience of the successful candidate as well as the needs of the program. The position is best suited to a highly experienced advocate and brings with it potential for growth.

Typical duties and responsibilities include the following:

Portfolio Design and Grants Management
• Construct, and regularly review, a portfolio of work that combines multiple tools, which will include chiefly grant making, but also advocacy, convening, communications, and others, to advance access to justice as a health intervention.

• Responsible for all grant-making activities related to the portfolio, including reviewing grant proposals, conducting grantee site visits, and providing feedback on health and capacity of grantees.

**Program-Related**

• Develop, plan and organize program-related workshops, trainings and events;

• Stay abreast of developments in the field through research and attendance at conferences and/or meetings;

• Write strategy/position papers that provide direction on policy and capacity-building issues impacting the field and/or offer suggestions about strategic Project development;

• Perform special assignments, including participation in other OSF program and Foundation task forces and working groups;

• Build and establish strategic relationships with other philanthropic partners and NGOs.

**Budget**

• Manage financial and budget reports to track spending and assist in planning and development of annual budgets.

**Other**

• Extensive travel is required.

**Candidate Profile**

• Law degree and seven to ten years of experience using legal strategies to advance human and civil rights;

• Project management experience required, with grantmaking experience preferred;

• Demonstrated commitment to using law progressively to advance public health and human rights objectives, preferably in community-based organizations;

• Experience working in at least one of the following regions: Eastern Africa, the former Soviet Union (fSU), Asia and/or Latin America;

• Excellent written and oral English skills required, with fluency in one additional language strongly preferred. Fluency in Russian, Spanish, Portuguese or Swahili a plus.

• Experience working with marginalized populations, such people who use drugs, LGBTQI persons and people living with HIV;

• Knowledge of key organizations and networks active in the fields of legal empowerment and human rights;

• Experience working with or in non-governmental organizations;

• High level of emotional intelligence including the ability to grasp and work within a complex organizational environment, to show sensitivity and respect for people working in different programs and departments, and to empathize with different points of view;

• Exceptional collaboration skills including the ability to identify opportunities from working with others and to innovate and increase impact based on synthesis of different topics and portfolios;
• Excellent strategic and analytical skills including the ability to combine external and internal inputs into a compelling strategy and theory of change;
• Superior adaptability with the ability to work in conditions of change and ambiguity, and to stretch oneself to adopt new skills for changing circumstances and challenges;
• Willingness to undertake extensive travel

To apply, please submit a cover letter and CV via our website:

We are strengthened by the diversity of our colleagues across the Open Society Foundations, and we welcome and actively seek applications from people of all cultures, backgrounds, and experiences.