

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Bilingual Social Services Advocate (Santa Cruz)



Defending the Rights of the Elderly
of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties

Part Time: 20 hours a week
Reports to: Clinical Social Worker Supervisor
FLSA: Non-Exempt

About Senior Legal Services, (www.seniorlegal.org)

SLS has provided high-quality, free legal services to elderly residents of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties since 1972. The highest priority of the organization is to defend the right of the elderly to quality health care, social integration, to secure their persons and property, and to be free of discrimination on the basis of age or disability.

Position Summary

Senior Legal Services (SLS) is seeking a part-time Bilingual Social Services Advocate to support the growth of a new interdisciplinary program enabling our legal services to be more holistic and well rounded. This is a grant funded position, from April 2024 to April 2025, and may be terminated if the grant were to become unfunded. Hours and schedule negotiable.

Primary Responsibilities

The Social Services Advocate will work with the elderly and/or their families by addressing their social and psychological needs as they also participate in the handling of their legal matters. The Advocate will assist clients with answering questions regarding client's legal matters, assist with some documentation needs and evidence building and provide referrals for services in the community. The Advocate will provide the following services: crisis intervention, emergency assistance, peer counseling, resource and referral counseling to community agencies, public presentations and training, court support, justice system orientation, and case status and disposition notification.

The position requires staff to be in office and may include field visits to the client's home or other locations as requested by the client and the Clinical Social Worker Supervisor.

Competencies and Qualifications

Must Have

- Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy, gerontology, human services, public health, or behavioral science or related degree preferred. May also consider related work and life experience in lieu of Bachelor's degree.
- Professional experience providing case management and advocacy.
- Knowledge of and experience with systems of care that serve the elderly, ideally in California and Santa Cruz and/or San Benito County
- Ability to work independently and be self-motivated
- Excellent verbal, interpersonal, writing, interviewing, and organizational skills
- Valid Driver's license

Preferred

- A minimum of two years of experience in social work, gerontology, or related fields.
- Professional experience in working with aging adults, elderly abuse and neglect.

- Knowledge of, experience with, and ability to assess law enforcement and victim assistance programs.
- Experience working with an underserved population.
- Bi-lingual ability and/or bi-cultural background preferred.

Physical Requirements:

- Physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job with or without reasonable accommodation. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit; use hands to grasp, handle, or feel; reach with hands and arms; talk and hear. The employee is required to sit, walk and stand for extended periods of time. The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 15 pounds. The employee must be able to work for 8 hours in close quarters with other employees. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, depth perception, and ability to adjust focus.

Compensation

Salary starts at \$30,000– \$33,000 annually depending on experience. This is a part-time position and does include a generous benefit package if working 20+ hours/week. Part-time employment less than 20 hours is non-benefitted.

To Apply

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Submit via email only: 1) cover letter, 2) resume. A list of three professional references will subsequently be requested and checked. Include “**Social Services Advocate**” in the subject line. Please email application materials directly to resume@seniorlegal.org

POSITION OPEN UNTIL FILLED

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

SLS is committed to diversity and cultivating a culture of equity and inclusion within where all staff can flourish and grow professionally and well beyond. We are an equal employment opportunity employer and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, pregnancy, gender, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, medical condition, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity (including transgender status) or any other basis prohibited by law.