COFI seeks an experienced Parent Organizer interested in learning The COFI Way of Family Focused Organizing model and working with parent leaders in the East St. Louis, Illinois region. COFI’s work is about strengthening the power and voice of families from under-resourced communities at all levels of civic life – from local institutions and communities to the city, state and federal policy arenas. COFI accomplishes this mission through a unique women-centered model of leadership development and community organizing called The COFI Way of Family Focused Organizing, which emphasizes the interconnection between personal struggles and broader community issues and builds capacity for leaders to address these issues at both a personal level and through public action.

This position is part of a statewide team of organizers working on a broad range of social justice and racial equity policy campaigns including access to quality early learning opportunities, ending the school to prison pipeline, addressing economic security issues, and children/family health and hunger. The position provides parent organizing support and leadership development to an existing group of parent activists, Parents United for Change, and supports the leadership training of new cohorts of parents annually in East St. Louis and, potentially, throughout the southern IL and Metro East regions, and support them as they lead efforts on local, cross-community and statewide policy change. The position is supervised by COFI’s Deputy Director of Organizing and Policy and coordinates with other COFI organizers in Chicago and throughout the state.

PARENT ORGANIZER RESPONSIBILITIES:
The Parent Organizer responsibilities include:

- With guidance from COFI senior staff, support Parents United for Change and train new cohorts of parents annually in the E. St. Louis region and potentially other southern IL communities.
- Support parents to develop and implement concrete projects and campaigns to impact positive change in their communities and to engage parents in local collaborations, including East Side Aligned and the Greater East St. Louis Early Learning Partnership, among others.
- Learn the COFI model and facilitate and coordinate its components.
- Develop parents’ leadership skills and capacity to impact change in their own lives, their communities and beyond.
- Research, issue development, media and coordination of local organizing projects/campaigns.
- Occasional (about 10 trips per year) travel to Chicago and other parts of IL for staff meetings, parent leader meetings and training and to Springfield, IL for legislative action is required.
- Work with COFI organizer team to implement COFI statewide trainings and other organizational projects and activities.

REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum 1-3 years community, electoral, or labor organizing experience.
- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience.
- A commitment to learn The COFI Way of Family Focused Organizing model.
- Knowledge, understanding of and commitment to the empowerment of parents from under-resourced communities and experience working with diverse communities.
- Strong interpersonal skills; ability to relate easily with a wide range of people, particularly low- and moderate-income women of color.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Excellent organizational skills: planning, time management, computers.
- Creativity, flexibility, and good problem-solving skills.
- Willingness to work flexible hours and travel, including some evening and weekends.
- Must have a car and maintain a valid driver’s license and automobile insurance coverage.

OTHER:

- Salary for this position starts in the range of $35,000 to $45,000, depending upon experience; generous, family-friendly benefits are provided; will consider part-time applicants.
- Women organizers, organizers of color and bilingual organizers are strongly encouraged to apply.

Deadline for applications is June 7, 2020. Please email cover letter, COFI Employment Application Form, and resume to applications@cofionline.org or mail to Applications, COFI, 2245 South Michigan, Suite 200, Chicago, Illinois 60616; or fax to 312/226-5144. Questions can be directed to Tracy Occomy, Deputy Director of Organizing and Policy at 312-226-5141. Application form and more information about COFI are available at www.cofionline.org.

COFI is an equal opportunity employer.