

Iowa Student Action and Iowa CCI Action Fund Student Organizer Job Description

Organization Overview

Iowa Student Action is a statewide student organization that organizes grassroots student power to make our colleges and universities work for their students, staff, and community. Iowa Student Action has members at Grinnell College, Iowa State University, Des Moines Area Community College, University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, and Cornell College.

We are an affiliate of Student Action, a national network of student power organizations that runs a national campaign for Free College For All and the full cancellation of student debt. Iowa Student Action is a sister organization of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement Action Fund, a statewide community organization with over five thousand members. Iowa Student Action's staff and funding is housed by our sister organization Iowa CCI Action Fund (501c4).

Iowa Student Action uses community organizing, direct action, and electoral organizing to apply pressure on statewide and national decision makers to stop tuition hikes and make college for all a reality in our state. Our organization is driven by our membership of student leaders who are working class, gender diverse, and multi-racial. Our fight for college for all is explicitly focused on advancing our values of racial, gender, and environmental justice.

Position Overview

Iowa Student Action is looking to hire a full-time Student Organizer to lead and build out Iowa Student Action throughout the 2020 caucus. The contract for this position runs from August 11, 2019 to February 7, 2020 with the potential to be extended, depending on job performance and continuation of funding.

This position will be supervised and supported by Iowa CCI Action Fund Movement Politics Organizers. The Student Organizer will also be accountable to and supported by Iowa Student Action's large network of volunteer student organizers and Student Action's national leadership. The organizer will work out of Iowa CCI Action Fund's Headquarters in Des Moines.

Primary Outcomes

- Mobilize students to attend Iowa CCI Action's People's Presidential Forum on Saturday September 21.

- Advance Student Action's national campaign for Free College For All in Iowa through political education, training, and at least one large direct action during Fall Semester.
- Work with Iowa CCI Action Movement Politics organizers to design and execute a campus specific GOTV strategy for the Iowa Caucus on February 3, 2020.
- Work with campus fellows to build the leadership and membership of Iowa Student Action campus chapters.

Responsibilities

Base building:

- Grow our membership base by meeting with students one on one.
- Mentor and support student leaders (current and new) to build their own membership bases through canvassing/tabling, organizing events, one-on-one meetings, etc.
- Run or support campus meetings and other local events that engage current and new membership, and deepen and strengthen their political analysis and engagement
- Build and maintain relationships with current and prospective allies, e.g. other progressive student organizations on campus, cultural organizations, citywide or statewide student organizations, student governments, school service providers, local organizations, elected officials

Leadership Development:

- Train student leaders in community organizing 101 skills
- Mentor key student leaders and develop their community organizing skills
- Hold meetings on campus with political education content related to Free College For All and structural oppression

Fundraising:

- Engage core team in grassroots fundraising efforts to sign students up to pay dues and raise money from some foundation supporters
- Participate in all CCI staff fundraisers

Campaigns:

- Bottom-line our campaign for Free College for All. In the short term, this campaign is focused on stopping tuition hikes and organizing students against Iowa's new multi-year tuition model. Engage students in the leadership and all aspects of this campaign.

Required Qualifications

- At least 1 year of organizing experience (this can include volunteer organizing and organizing as a student)
- Quick to learn and adapt
- Able to work effectively independently as well as in a team

- Interested in and able to build relationships with people from diverse backgrounds through canvassing, tabling, and one-on-one meetings
- Commitment to social, racial, gender and economic justice

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience with student organizing, especially base building on campuses
- Experience organizing in communities of color
- Experience with People's Action organizing methodology, or other deep leadership development models
- Experience leading training
- Experience working on issue campaigns
- Experience fundraising

Salary

The Student Organizer is a contracted position with hourly pay starting at \$15/hour for 40 hours/week.

Application Process

Send a cover letter and a resume to ross@iowacci.org. We will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis beginning on August 12. Ideally, this position begins on the first week of September. Women, people of color and LGBTQ people are strongly encouraged to apply.