

Ending Youth Solitary Project Coordinator

Position Overview

The Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP) seeks a part-time Project Coordinator to help lead CCLP's work on new approaches to end solitary confinement for young people in juvenile and adult detention and corrections facilities. The Coordinator will work in close partnership with Stop Solitary for Kids.

Stop Solitary for Kids

Stop Solitary for Kids (SSK) is a partnership of four national organizations to end the practice of solitary confinement, also known as "isolation," "room confinement," and "segregation." SSK focuses on helping juvenile justice stakeholders to identify and implement safe and workable alternatives to solitary. SSK also supports advocates and community members working to implement those alternatives. The partner organizations are the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP), the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University (CJJR), the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators (CJJA), and the Justice Policy Institute (JPI). Each partner organization brings specific expertise to the work to end solitary. CCLP is responsible for managing and coordinating Stop Solitary for Kids.

Solitary confinement is one of the most common and abusive practices in youth facilities. Federal data show that over 30% of young people report experiencing solitary confinement while incarcerated. Almost half of prisons and jails report using isolation to manage youth behavior, resulting in thousands of young people being held in solitary every day. Solitary confinement can have devastating and permanent effects on young people in terms of trauma, depression, and exacerbation of existing mental health problems. More than 50% of suicides in youth facilities occur while young people are in isolation. Youth of color and particularly vulnerable youth are more likely to experience solitary confinement, including youth with mental illnesses or other disabilities, LGBTQI or gender non-conforming youth, and youth with trauma histories.

One of SSK's fundamental principles is that we cannot end the long-standing practice of solitary confinement through an "outsider only" approach, i.e., with external advocacy efforts alone. We cooperate with state and local officials who operate facilities that hold youth in solitary as well as other stakeholders and decision-makers and advocates. The SSK partners believe that ending solitary is a pathway to broader youth justice reform because it involves changing the culture and the punishment paradigm in juvenile justice facilities and systems.

Successful Stop Solitary for Kids work to end solitary confinement of youth

Since its creation in 2016, Stop Solitary for Kids has played a central role in many national, state, and local efforts to end solitary confinement for young people. Stop Solitary for Kids works in several ways:

- Supporting local, state, and national advocates in efforts to end the use of solitary for youth and creating resources, publications, and tools to support those efforts;
- Providing technical assistance to state and local agencies and facilities to promote effective alternatives to isolation;
- Maintaining a comprehensive resource website on ending youth solitary, including strategies, resources, fact sheets, and recent federal, state, and local developments;
- Engaging in social media and communications strategies to raise awareness about the harms of solitary confinement;
- Publishing information about successful reform efforts throughout the country;
- Assisting lawmakers as they develop legislative approaches to safely end reliance on solitary;
- Engaging youth and family members who have been impacted by solitary confinement; and
- Connecting facility administrators, advocates, and other stakeholders with peers in other jurisdictions who have successfully reduced and ended solitary.

Beginning in 2021, CCLP will expand its focus to promote new approaches to ending solitary confinement for young people, with a particular emphasis on racial justice, elevating the voices of those directly impacted, and supporting the decarceration of young people. The Coordinator will work with the SSK Campaign Manager to coordinate both existing and new projects. Read more about these new approaches here: <https://bit.ly/3bcN1FN>.

New and impactful approaches to ending solitary confinement will include:

- Collecting data on racial bias in the use of isolation to support targeted reforms;
- Providing technical assistance to a cohort of sites using the Room Confinement Assessment Tool (RCAT), a screening tool to track, assess, and provide strategies to reduce the use of solitary confinement;
- Creating and hosting a multi-day intensive training, or Certificate Program, at the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy where participating teams from across the country will receive intensive training and technical assistance to end the use of isolation in their jurisdictions; and
- Developing a law school course on juvenile and criminal justice using the framework of the acclaimed social justice documentary series, “Time: The Kalief Browder Story.” Kalief Browder spent more than three years in solitary at the Rikers Island Jail in New York City and took his own life after he was released.

Coordinator Responsibilities

The Coordinator will focus on developing, coordinating, and amplifying the work on new approaches to end youth solitary, including:

- Working with the SSK Campaign Manager on strategic planning, organizational planning, and coordination of new projects described above;
- Leading the development and administration of the Room Confinement Assessment Tool (RCAT) in cohort sites;
- Creating fact sheets, infographics, publications, and written testimony;
- Representing CCLP during coalition calls or meetings regarding ending youth solitary;
- Updating the StopSolitaryforKids.org website with resources and significant developments on youth solitary;
- Reviewing and cataloging relevant research and legislation on solitary confinement;
- Writing progress reports, new proposals, and budgets for Stop Solitary funders;
- Identifying and pursuing resources (financial and otherwise) to advance the Stop Solitary for Kids agenda;
- Working with the Justice Policy Institute to develop and promote communications tools in support of project efforts;
- Maintaining an active social media presence on the CCLP and SSK Twitter accounts;
- Drafting proposals, presentations, and handouts for national workshops and conferences;
- Organizing and leading webinars and convenings;
- Developing concrete ways to ensure that Stop Solitary's efforts focus on racial equity;
- Seeking out opportunities to partner with other organizations and potential allies; and
- Assisting with recruitment, preparation, and partnership with youth and family members who have been impacted by solitary confinement.

Qualifications

- Associate's or bachelor's degree.
- Three to five years of experience working in youth justice, child welfare, or a closely related field (e.g., education, civil rights);
- Commitment to and passion for policy and advocacy work that advances needed changes to the youth justice system, particularly in improving conditions of confinement for youth;
- Knowledge of, enthusiasm for, and experience with partnering with young people and families,
- Interest in working with administrators and staff members of youth justice facilities;
- Experience planning and organizing large-scale projects with multiple components and participants;
- Eagerness and ability to work on a variety of tasks, with a rapidly changing "to-do" list;
- Ability to work independently and as part of a close-knit team using remote technology such as Zoom and SharePoint;
- Ability to work with diverse people in diverse settings (from community settings to board rooms to jails);
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Willingness to have a flexible work schedule and environment (to allow for engagement with advocates, young people, and travel outside of traditional business hours);
- Professional experience with WordPress and social media platforms is preferred but not

required;

- Experience with data collection and digital platforms is preferred but not required.

The amount of the Coordinator's contract is \$30,000 for two days (16 hours) per week for a contract period of one year. There is the potential for a smaller amount of work after the first year. Residence in the Washington, DC, Maryland, or Virginia area is preferred but not required. The Coordinator may work remotely for part or all of the contract period. This position will remain open until filled.

CCLP is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, ethnic background, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. **People of color and individuals directly impacted by the youth justice system are strongly encouraged to apply.**

For more information about the Stop Solitary for Kids Campaign, visit StopSolitaryForKids.org.

Application Instructions

Please submit a cover letter describing your experience and interest in the position along with a resume and three references to Jenny Lutz, Staff Attorney and Campaign Manager, at jlutz@cclp.org. Please use the subject heading "Project Coordinator Application." No phone inquiries please.