Occupational Health and Safety Consultant Supporting NEA’s Pandemic Response Efforts

Summary Description
Support NEA and its affiliates’ pandemic response by designing and implementing a pandemic occupational safety and health program for the largest union in America. Programmatic functions will include identifying and alerting NEA and its affiliates to developments in the fast moving research on COVID-19, the transmission of the novel coronavirus, and the effectiveness of various mitigation strategies; assembling a panel of advisors to support NEA and its affiliates demands for safe schools; supporting the development of systems, protocols and structures to provide health and safety technical assistance to affiliates; supporting the development of tools, guidance and training on key health and safety protections for COVID-19.

Scope of Work
• Review OSHA, CDC, NIH and other governmental orders and guidance on COVID-19 issues as well as expert reports on the impact of COVID-19 on student and educator health and well-being in order to flag for NEA and its affiliates key developments and protections needed in schools and institutions of higher education.
• Identify and recruit public health professionals to serve on a “panel of advisors” who can review and analyze pandemic related plans and procedures and support, by
way of testifying or otherwise, NEA and its affiliates’ safe school demands.
• Work with NEA staff to support the development of systems, protocols and structures to provide health and safety technical assistance to NEA affiliates, including the development of tools, guidance and training for affiliates and members on key health and safety pandemic protections.
• Through the systems, protocols and structures for supporting NEA affiliates, assist NEA staff in responding to technical assistance requests from NEA affiliates (including requests for assistance with supporting and/or developing local health and safety committees).
• Support and expand NEA’s partnership with allied unions, advocacy groups, and occupational safety and health organizations working to promote best practices in pandemic-response health and safety concerns in K-12 and higher education settings.
• Support NEA’s work around returning to in-person instruction in buildings and campuses by collaborating with the NEA Health and Safety Core Team, as well as with NEA Communications and other NEA staff as needed to educate the public and NEA members about key steps to take in responding to the pandemic.
• Provide written analysis, products, reports, and testimony as needed.

Work Experience Needed:
• Prior experience in public health and/or occupational safety
and health required
• Prior experience in labor or other advocacy work desirable
• Prior experience in the education field desirable
• Prior experience in the design of worker health and safety educational materials desirable
• Experience: 5-7 years working on occupational safety and health issues with an emphasis on occupational safety and health policy.

Education Requirements Needed:
• Bachelor’s degree required; Master’s preferred

Duration and Expected Time Commitment:
At least six months on a full time basis (40 hours per week). Persons interested in serving in a part-time capacity should inquire and specify the particular portions of the scope of work set forth above that they are interested in fulfilling.
Expressions of Interest: Email Alice O’Brien (aobrien@nea.org) by no later than July 30, 2020 with statement of interest, resume or other statement of credentials, and at least two samples of written health & safety guidance or worker education tools.

If you have questions, email:

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NEA Center for Organizing
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