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**Chief
Communications &
Advocacy Officer**

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OUR CLIENT

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Ohio having served over 404,000 people in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Ashland and Richland counties in FY2025. They are a leading force in the fight against hunger, known for their steadfast commitment to community impact and their strategic, mission-driven approach. Click on the link to learn more: <https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/#>

POSITION SUMMARY

With an innovative spirit and a reputation for operational excellence, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank seeks a visionary Chief Communications & Advocacy Officer (CCAO) to drive external engagement, shape public policy, and amplify their voice in the region and beyond. This is a career-defining opportunity for a bold, collaborative executive ready to lead a high-performing team and serve as a powerful advocate for positive change.

The Chief Communications & Advocacy Officer (CCAO) will spearhead the organization's strategy for communications, public affairs, advocacy, and special events. Reporting directly to the President & CEO and serving as a member of the Senior Leadership Team, the CCAO will play an integral role in shaping organizational direction, building alliances, and elevating the organization's profile. They are seeking an accomplished executive with a proven track record in strategic leadership, relationship management, and cross-functional teamwork. In this high-impact role, you'll serve as a key representative and spokesperson of the organization, forging strong connections with community leaders, media partners, policymakers, and key stakeholders. You'll champion the external affairs strategy, ensuring every initiative aligns seamlessly with the mission and long-term, strategic vision; always with a steadfast commitment to a nonpartisan approach.

REQUIREMENTS

- Serve as a key advisor to the CEO and Senior Leadership Team, collaborating with peers to develop organizational strategy and contributing to major decision-making.
- Develop and oversee the execution of comprehensive external affairs strategies, ensuring alignment with organizational mission, values, and strategic plan.
- Lead and mentor a diverse team, including directors and staff in communications, advocacy, and events, fostering collaboration and professional growth.
- Build and nurture relationships with community leaders, media partners, policymakers, and other stakeholders to advance organizational objectives.
- Direct all aspects of external communications, marketing, and brand management, ensuring a clear, compelling, and consistent message across all channels.

- Oversee proactive media relations, crisis communications, and reputation management, serving as a spokesperson when appropriate.
- Guide the planning and execution of high-impact special events and major campaigns that expand awareness and generate revenue.
- Shape and drive advocacy and public policy initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels, focusing on food security and related issues. Oversee public education.
- Collaborate with peer leaders in Programs, Operations, Finance, HR, and Development to ensure integrated messaging and shared priorities.
- Manage departmental budget, optimize resource allocation, and identify opportunities for strategic growth and impact.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Bachelor's degree is required; advanced degree in communications, public policy, nonprofit management, or a related field preferred.
- Proven executive leadership experience in external affairs, communications, advocacy, or public policy; preferably in a mission-driven or nonprofit environment.
- Exceptional strategic planning, project management, and organizational skills, with a demonstrated ability to align departmental initiatives with broader organizational goals.
- Outstanding written and verbal communication abilities, including public speaking, media relations, and crisis management.
- Demonstrated success in building high-functioning teams, mentoring staff, and fostering a culture of collaboration and accountability.
- Strong relationship-building skills, with experience engaging senior leaders, board members, media, government officials, and community partners.
- Deep understanding of public policy, advocacy, and government relations, especially as they relate to hunger, food security, or human services.
- Creative approach to campaign and event development, with a track record of executing high-profile initiatives that advance organizational objectives.
- Strong analytical, budgetary, and resource management capabilities.
- Commitment to nonpartisanship, equity, and the mission of increasing access to nutritious food for all.

If you are an exceptional, goal-oriented leader with the qualifications to be extraordinary and who is driven by purpose and thrives in a collaborative, mission-focused environment, we are very interested in speaking with you. Please submit your interest in confidence to:

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