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## **Vice President of Public Policy and Communications December 2011**

IFF is a nonprofit community development financial institution that works in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin. IFF's core programs are financing, real estate consulting and development, and public policy supported by research. IFF has a staff of 64, offices in Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Louis, total assets of \$220 million, and an annual operating budget of \$9.5 million. The position reports to the CEO and is based in Chicago. Travel is required.

The Vice President of Public Policy and Communication designs and leads a broad communications program that advances the goals and influence of IFF nationwide as well as in IFF's five states. Responsibilities include proactive and continual contact with the press, the development of relationships with influence-makers in the CDFI and related industries such as community banking and community development, maintenance of timely information on IFF's web site and through social media, as well as a range of collateral material, publications and events. The Vice President serves as the point of contact for all press requests.

The Vice President manages an active public policy agenda that reflects IFF's priorities and responds to the needs of IFF's target markets in both urban and rural low-income and is invested communities. Areas of current interest include charter schools, child care, retail grocers in high-need communities, community health centers, and a wide range of human services and community development programs and activities, including the CDFI industry. The policy agenda includes support for the funding and regulatory environment in these and other sectors, both on the local level in IFF's five states and on the federal level. The Vice President is IFF's primary point of contact for many national trade organizations and has frequent contact with elected officials.

The Vice President also manages a research consulting business that provides demographic, needs assessments, and applied research for nonprofit corporations, governments, and foundations, primarily related to the IFF's five states but also in other urban areas, if these projects are aligned with IFF overall goals. The Vice President may identify topics for research, obtain funding, develop and maintain relationships with funders, present findings and participate in publishing and disseminating reports and studies, to special interest groups as well as civic leadership.

### **Desired Skills and Experience**

Bachelor's Degree required; Masters Degree in public policy or related field preferred.

Minimum seven years experience in communications or a legislative or public policy analysis position with a government agency, trade association, think tank or nonprofit advocacy group. Experience in IFF's five-state region (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin) or Washington, DC preferred. Issue expertise in some combination of community development, finance, early care and education, health and human services, housing or the nonprofit sector.

Excellent writing and oral presentation skills required.

### **Contact**

This position will be open until filled. To apply, submit a cover letter, resume and qualifications to: [jkuhnen@iff.org](mailto:jkuhnen@iff.org) or John Kuhnen, IFF, 1 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60602. No phone calls.