



Request for Proposal | State Campaign Consultant

About LSSC and Our Team

The Local Solutions Support Center (LSSC) is a national hub focused on the misuse of state preemption, documenting its consequences - particularly on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQ people, women, immigrants, and workers in low-wage industries - and devising counter strategies to affirm and strengthen local democracy.

We believe that our democracy should work for all people. A healthy democracy should allow historically excluded people to build power and exercise agency over their own lives and communities. State preemption of local policy making should only be used to protect the health and well-being of residents, and should create the foundation upon which localities can go further in advancing equity and addressing their communities' needs. Unfortunately, preemption today is being abused specifically to undermine a healthy democracy and harm people.

Building a more equitable and just society means that every community should have the authority and autonomy to advance equitable policies and how to most urgently meet the needs of their residents. We're committed to supporting this work by both sharing best practices and supporting locally led strategies that center local expertise and lived experience.

The increased abuse of preemption - when a higher form of government strips authority from a lower level of government - has created demand for cross-movement collaboration through broad and diverse state coalitions and the development and deployment of innovative strategies to educate and engage grassroots activists, advocates, local and state elected officials, and more. To meet these needs, LSSC has been providing deep coalition development support, helping advocates align on shared goals, and craft and execute effective campaign strategies. Additionally, LSSC has helped raise the profile of preemption and its consequences, educated and connected advocates, elected officials and city attorneys, worked with the legal community to file challenges and amicus briefs, changed the language and messaging used to define state interference and make the case for local democracy, and, built cross-issue coalitions that have worked collaboratively at the grassroots level to counter or repeal preemption.

LSSC works in (currently) six core states: AZ, FL, NC, PA, TN, TX. We anticipate expanding our work to several other states in 2022. Each state in which we work has a coalition of organizations and grassroots partners, all aligned on the same mission and goal. As a hub, we are not a stand-alone organization; our work is conducted in tandem with our partners, driven by their needs and the needs of the communities they serve.

As LSSC looks ahead to 2022, we intend to support our growing team with the addition of a second contract State Campaign Consultant to start as early as December 1, 2021 but no later than February 1, 2022.

What We Are Looking For

LSSC is looking for a consultant to work in partnership with our State Campaign Team Lead Consultant to foster and support cross-movement collaboration in numerous states.

This individual will be responsible for (1) supporting the development and operation of state-based cross-movement coalitions; (2) growing and engaging our network of national and state organizations, advocates, policy makers, and more; (3) developing and deploying innovative campaign strategies, resources, and best practices; and, (4) creating and participating in state and national education opportunities.

This person will be a core member of LSSC's team, collaborating with members of our Legal, Research, and Communications teams to ensure effective and efficient coordination and deployment of support to our state campaigns.

Scope of Work

Provide strategic support and technical assistance to in-state allies, organizations, and coalitions to prepare them to act on structural changes to enhance and protect local democracy. This support will include:

- Participating in regular coalition meetings to monitor and identify plans, trends, and campaign needs (coalition meeting schedules vary throughout the year)
- Providing facilitation, coalition development, and planning support as needed to both established and forming coalitions
- Redeploying monthly/weekly virtual trainings geared toward state-specific issues and trainings
- Providing administrative and developing support to coalitions, such as:
 - Facilitating and/or shaping debrief sessions
 - Crafting and disseminating coalition template documents
 - Curating LSSC resources for easy dissemination to partners
- Co-leading LSSC's monthly Virtual Training program, including:
 - Identifying training needs to support state and local partners
 - Curating best practices for dissemination
 - Recruiting speakers, trainers, panelists, etc. and supporting the curriculum and content development
 - Coordinating the logistics to host the training session (e.g. drafting and sending invitations, maintaining the distribution list, tracking registrations, distributing materials, etc.)
 - Continuing to position LSSC as the go-to resource for advocates, elected officials, and state and national partners.
- Developing, executing, and monitoring state and local campaign plans to combat the abuse of preemption and strengthen local democracy for core states campaigns, emerging state coalitions, and triage campaign support
- Coordinating liaison support to resources from the legal, education, research, and communications activities of the broader LSSC team in states to ensure alignment and a holistic approach to our state campaigns
- Advocating for the needs and support of core state coalitions campaigns within LSSC
- Conducting ongoing landscape analyses of potential state partnerships, campaign opportunities, and investment needs to inform LSSC's broader planning and resource allocation efforts.
- Building out and maintaining a partnership tracking matrix to curate and track LSSC's partnerships across the full team and to assist in identifying opportunities to expand our network
- Integrating into LSSC's broader team through participation in LSSC's holistic strategic planning efforts, regular team and network meetings, and LSSC programmatic offerings

Core Competencies

The State Campaign Consultant should possess the following skills and experience:

- Demonstrate a passion for and commitment to cross-movement work to combat the abuse of preemption, strengthen local democracy, and reform home rule

- Understand the connection between the current misuse of state preemption and the systemic oppression of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), women, LGBTQ people, immigrants, and workers in low-wage industries
- The ability to build strong partnerships with a diverse set of stakeholders
- Meeting facilitation skills and the ability to navigate complicated intra-state and internal coalition dynamics
- Experience developing and delivering training curriculum, educational materials, and presentations with a particular focus on audiences of advocates, policy makers, and grassroots activists
- Exceptional writing skills
- Vision, creativity, and planning
- The flexibility, humor, and humility to thrive in a fast-paced remote environment with a constellation of fellow consultants and partner organizations

How to Submit a Proposal

The State Campaign Consultant will be an independent contractor and will execute a contract with LSSC's fiscal sponsor, New Venture Fund, to start as early as December 1, 2021 to run through the end of 2022.

Interested independent contractors or consulting firms are encouraged to submit a proposal to lssc@supportdemocracy.org. Please reference the proposal in the subject line of your email. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Priority will be given to proposals submitted by November 15, 2021.

Your proposal should demonstrate that you meet the expectations outlined above, with a particular focus on your (1) alignment with our values and approaches; (2) ability to meet the expectations outlined in the scope of work; and, (3) your availability to meet with a member of the LSSC team and to start as soon as December 1, 2021 but no later than January 3, 2022.

The contract for the State Campaign Consultant is an \$8,000 monthly retainer, to be invoiced monthly with the hope of continuation in a multi-year arrangement. We encourage individuals and firms led by BIPOC, women, LGBTQ folks, and immigrants to submit a proposal. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, age, marital, and/or veteran status or any other characteristic or activity protected by federal, state, or local law.