Senior Director of Advocacy in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East

The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) seeks a Senior Director of Advocacy to oversee the Foundation’s advocacy efforts and investments in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. The Senior Director will develop and execute an ambitious advocacy strategy to drive attention, awareness, and action on the issue of malnutrition in the multiple donor countries. They will engage directly with policymakers, including through regular meetings and by funding and attending frequent parliamentarian learning trips. The Senior Director will oversee a multi-million dollar portfolio of grants to the most renowned foreign assistance advocacy organizations in each priority market, and will build close relationships with senior leadership at these organizations. The Senior Director will also have the opportunity to grow the Foundation’s in-house advocacy teams in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. This key Foundation leadership position will develop close relationships with senior government officials, build coalitions and cultivate new advocacy partners, launch major new initiatives and campaigns, oversee creative communications strategies, and represent the Foundation at major events. This position reports directly to ECF’s CEO. The Senior Director will serve as a member of ECF’s Senior Leadership Team, and play a central role in supporting the overall management and performance of the growing Foundation team.

Over the past 8 years, ECF has become a leader in global advocacy on malnutrition. We are now by far the largest funder of global malnutrition advocacy in the U.S. Our headquarters is located in Washington, DC, and we have close partnerships across the US Government. In more recent years, we have also become the largest funder of global malnutrition advocacy in the U.K., where we now also have a small but well established advocacy team and high performing grantees. In addition to our bilateral donor advocacy, we also host and chair Stronger Foundations, the main coalition of philanthropies focused on malnutrition.

We are now embarking on a major global advocacy expansion, which this position will lead. The Senior Director of Advocacy will leverage our advocacy strength and know-how in order to build successful new ECF advocacy offices in 3-4 new donor countries in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. ECF is currently working to identify the 3-4 new advocacy markets where we are most likely to achieve major wins.

This is a unique opportunity to build a highly influential advocacy network that spans the globe, and can raise billions of urgently needed dollars to stop deadly malnutrition. An advocacy and public policy leader who is persistent, “sick of business as usual,” highly creative and diplomatic, and wants to have a lasting impact on global health, hunger, child survival, and malnutrition will thrive.

About the Eleanor Crook Foundation
A child dies of malnutrition every 11 seconds. Entirely preventable, malnutrition remains the leading cause of death for children, claiming three million lives each year. The Eleanor Crook Foundation was founded in 1997 with a single goal: to eradicate global malnutrition. We invest in research that proves what methods work, policy analysis to drive systems reform, and advocacy that makes the case for urgent action to address this global crisis.

ECF is an active investor and our team of experts prides itself on being accountable and informed. We ask tough questions and go beyond our grantmaking to serve the global nutrition sector as a key convener, advocate, and thought leader. In 2017, the Foundation pledged $100
million towards the elimination of global malnutrition. In 2023, the Eleanor Crook Foundation was awarded an additional $25 million for advocacy and programs through Open Philanthropy’s Regranting Challenge.

Senior Advocacy Director Responsibilities

- Oversee the day-to-day efforts of ECF’s European, Asian, and Middle Eastern advocacy. In close consultation with the CEO and Managing Director, the Senior Director will have the opportunity to foster an expanded world class team of influential advocates.

- Develop and execute multi-year advocacy strategies in and across focus markets that will guide the efforts of ECF staff, consultants, and grantees. This will include significant time engaging directly with senior government decisionmakers and with partner organizations in each country. We imagine that at least 50% of the incumbent’s time would be spent engaging directly with policymakers across focus markets.

- Be an expert on politics, government affairs, and foreign assistance strategies in each donor advocacy market in the portfolio.

- Leverage ECF’s strong political networks in the U.S., the U.K., and elsewhere to build ECF’s brand and value proposition in new focus advocacy countries.

- Develop close working relationships with government decision makers and grassroots influencers in each focus country.

- Bring the global malnutrition advocacy community to the next level by providing high-level thought leadership, encouraging and contributing to bold, outside-the-box thinking, and identifying and funding new effective strategies and tactics.

- Design new grants, engage new advocacy partners, and build and convene new advocacy coalitions.

- Represent the Foundation at major advocacy events.

- Regularly engage with other leading global advocacy donors.

- Regularly attend relevant advocacy events to further inform the Foundation’s understanding of sector developments as well as grantee progress, concerns, and opportunities to drive impact.

- Seek synergies and opportunities for interface between ECF’s advocacy initiatives and ECF’s research and policy teams. Work with ECF’s communications team to ensure our communications efforts are in support of our overall advocacy objectives.

- Serve as a member of ECF’s Senior Leadership Team, helping to provide overall management support to the growing ECF team, identifying new opportunities for collaborative and streamlined systems, and ensuring our entire team is appropriately supported to reach our ambitious objectives.
We would expect that this position requires frequent travel (roughly 35-40% of the incumbent’s time) as they will oversee and engage in efforts across multiple countries.

You might be a good candidate if:

- You have a strong understanding of international development donor markets.
- You’ve spent time working in government, at relevant UN agencies, multilateral institutions, and/or bilateral donor agencies. Generally speaking, we’re looking for candidates who have a nuanced understanding of the levers of change in these types of institutions.
- You know how to conceptualize and advance advocacy campaigns. You have a knack for dreaming up creative approaches - big and small - and seeing them through from idea to execution.
- You know how to manage high-performing teams across multiple locations.
- You are adept at government relations and building strong relationships with policymakers and grassroots influencers.
- You have an ability to step back from current practice and imagine future frontiers. You’re willing to assess opportunity even when it stands against the status quo and you like the challenge of inspiring action in others.
- You’re willing to jump into the details of malnutrition programming and policy and have the ability to digest nuanced information and communicate it clearly to more generalist audiences. We don’t expect candidates to have worked in global malnutrition before.
- You have a high level of interpersonal skills and cultural sensitivity and you can effectively interact with all levels of internationally-based partners and staff.
- You enjoy holding staff and partners to high standards of excellence, while maintaining a positive work environment.
- You can manage multiple tasks and projects and to meet deadlines. You are adept at managing competing priorities, holding internal teams and external partners accountable for ambitious deadlines, and building coalitions of the willing in the process.
- You’re excited by the chance to jump in and build world-class teams and investments at a growing foundation. This requires attention to details both big and small, flexibility, and an unrelenting desire to do better, together.
- Note that this is a senior leadership position. We would expect though not require that a successful applicant has at least 10-15 years of experience in global health or global development advocacy or policy.

We don’t expect or seek “perfect” candidates. We encourage all interested candidates to apply. If you are on the fence about applying because you are unsure whether you are qualified, we would strongly encourage you to apply.