

# Ohio State Director for Unique Nonprofit

## Who We Are

Council for a Strong America (StrongNation.org) is a national nonprofit that has a 20-year track record of strengthening families, communities, the economy, and national security. Council for a Strong America unites five bipartisan membership organizations: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Mission: Readiness, ReadyNation, Shepherding the Next Generation, and Champions for America's Future. These organizations promote research-based programs and solutions that ensure our next generation of Americans will be citizen-ready. We have more than 80 staff members located in our national office in Washington, D.C., as well as 11 state offices.

## Whom We Seek

Council for a Strong America seeks a State Director for our Ohio state office who has a passion for and an understanding of public policy advocacy, and the vision, relationships, and experience to maintain and build our presence in Ohio. The State Director will be responsible for all aspects of stewarding and growing a statewide organization of leaders in law enforcement, retired military, business, the faith community, and athletics, including mobilizing these messengers to support increased state and federal investments in programs and policies for children and youth that will benefit communities, national security, and our economy.

The successful candidate will have a demonstrated ability to mobilize and build trust among a group of talented and committed members. She or he will have a deep appreciation for the political/policy and fundraising landscape of Ohio. The State Director must also possess the diplomatic and interpersonal skills to navigate the complexities attendant to working with five active membership groups; internal stakeholders; outside allies; federal, state, and local policymakers; and multiple funders. Entrepreneurial instincts, creativity, flexibility, and the determination of an organizer are the character traits that are essential for success in this role.

## Goals and Reporting

The goals of the position are to:

1. Recruit, engage, and mobilize law enforcement (268 current members), retired military (12 current members), senior business leaders (36 current members), faith leaders (108 current member), and prominent coaches and athletes (7 current members) in key areas across Ohio;
2. Determine policy opportunities and threats in coordination with state and local allies; and
3. Manage activities ranging from press conferences to meetings with state and federal policymakers, to sign-on letters, and social media engagement.

The Ohio State Director will be responsible for all day-to-day Ohio state activities. The Ohio State Director will report to the Director of State Offices, while also working closely with the National Directors of all five of our membership organizations, based in Washington, DC, as well as with other state and national staff.

## Job Responsibilities

- **Growing the organizations:** Recruiting, engaging, and mobilizing: law enforcement leaders, retired military general and flag officers, business leaders, faith leaders, and leading athletes and coaches, as members of their respective organizations.
- **Policy Work:** Working with our members to educate policymakers, the media, and the public about why research-based interventions for children can make our country stronger. We utilize a range of approaches, including direct meetings between our members and state policymakers. Work in coordination with allies to identify policy opportunities and threats. As appropriate, the director will also work to educate federal policymakers in concert with our national staff.
- **Media:** Developing and executing an aggressive media strategy that features our members to garner print, broadcast coverage, and social media reach of our message. This work will include organizing media events, helping our members submit newspaper op-eds and letters-to-the-editor, scheduling members for TV and radio talk shows, and coordinating their use of social media to amplify our message.
- **Fundraising:** We are funded largely by national and state foundations, and the state director will be involved in fundraising efforts, in coordination with our national development staff, to support our Ohio work. We do not administer or fund any direct service programs, with the exception of the new Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Police Training Institute.

## **Skills, Competencies and Knowledge Required for the Position:**

### **Essential:**

- Understanding of the legislative process and advocacy strategies.
- Ability to persuade others to join a cause and take action.
- Superior diplomatic skills and ability to work effectively with complex relationships, including with major allies in the children's community.
- Well-organized, able to work independently to achieve goals, ability to juggle multiple projects at once, and respond rapidly and flexibly to changing priorities, while meeting deadlines.
- Superior oral and written communications skills.
- Ability to independently lead effective meetings with state legislators, allies, and members.
- Adequate capacity to work independently with Word/Excel/PowerPoint.
- Strong commitment to our mission and strategic vision.
- Ability to persevere – cold-call, not take no for an answer.

### **Desirable:**

- Knowledge of and contacts within Ohio's law enforcement, military, business, health, and/or fitness communities.
- Knowledge of education/child and family policy.
- Experience cultivating and sustaining relationships with funders.

### **Minimum experience required:**

8-10 years of relevant, professional experience in government affairs, public policy, and/or advocacy.

### **Compensation:**

Salary will be comparable to other nonprofit organizations, and there are excellent benefits, including fully paid individual health coverage, vacation, and contributions to a 403b account.

### **Travel:**

The person in this position must be able to travel frequently within the state with occasional national travel.

### **To Apply:**

Please send a resume, a thoughtful cover letter, and a completed questionnaire (below) to:

[jobs@councilforastrongamerica.org](mailto:jobs@councilforastrongamerica.org) Please enter "Ohio State Director" in the subject line.

*Council for a Strong America is an equal opportunity employer that understands the value of diversity and its impact on a high performance culture. CSA provides equal employment opportunity to all individuals regardless of their race, color, creed, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by state, federal, or local law.*

## **Council for a Strong America Ohio State Director Questionnaire**

1. Why are you interested in this position? (If you feel you have already said in a cover letter all that you want to say on this subject, you may skip this question.)
2. Please describe your experience in the following areas:
  - Organizing media events or press conferences; and
  - Public speaking and giving presentations.
3. Please describe any experience you have in working:
  - In a legislative and policy environment;
  - In a membership-oriented organization;
  - With children and youth;
  - With law enforcement;

- With military leaders;
- With the business community;
- With the evangelical faith community; and
- With athletes and coaches.

4. Briefly describe any campaign, legislative, or advocacy experience you have had at the state level.

5. Please describe any experience you have had recruiting people to be a member of an organization, or to engage in some activity you were organizing.

6. Please indicate:

- Your salary range expectations:

#### **ABOUT SHEPHERDING THE NEXT GENERATION**

*Evangelical pastors and ministry leaders calling for biblically-based and effective approaches to strengthen families and communities*

#### **ABOUT COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA**

*Council for a Strong America unites five organizations of powerful leaders preparing the next generation to be well-educated, physically fit, and prepared for productive lives. Council for a Strong America includes: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Mission: Readiness, ReadyNation, Shepherding the Next Generation, and Champions for America's Future.*

**UNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA: Five pillars of society ensuring our next generation is citizen-ready.**

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