



# Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers Carter Center Mental Health Program

Senior Director,  
Caregiver and Mental Health Policy

Washington, DC



## Who We Are

The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers (RCI) and the Carter Center (CC) are two venerable institutions with distinct but related missions.

Writer, activist, and former First Lady of Georgia and the United States Rosalynn Carter is a leading advocate for numerous causes with a special devotion to improving the lives of people coping with mental illnesses and substance misuse disorders, those facing the challenges of aging or disability, and others in need, as well as the family, friends, and neighbors who struggle to care for them. As she famously reminded us, “There are only four kinds of people in the world – those that have been caregivers, those that are caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers.”

In 1987, she founded the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers (RCI) in Americus, Georgia, to promote the health, strength, and resilience of this nation’s fifty-three million caregivers at every stage of their journey through gathering, analyzing, and sharing data, partnering with others, and promoting evidence-based programs.

In 1991, the Carter Center’s Mental Health Program (CC-MHP) was founded to carry on her pioneering work in this highly stigmatized space. The Carter Center Mental Health Program elevates behavioral health as a global health priority, promoting policies and practices that improve access to and the availability of mental health services, while continuing to address stigma and eliminate the resulting discriminatory behavior. CC-MHP’s approach includes informing and educating diverse stakeholders, pursuing evidence-based public policy change, and strengthening behavioral health systems.

You can learn more about RCI, CC-MHP, and CC on their websites at [www.rosalynncarter.org](http://www.rosalynncarter.org) and [www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org).

## The Opportunity

Following a directive by Mrs. Carter to go beyond direct service and pursue transformative change on the national policy level on both caregiver and mental health issues, the Rosalynn Carter Institute and the Carter Center’s Mental Health Program have joined forces and are seeking a highly strategic and tenacious Senior Director, Caregiver and Mental Health Policy to help them realize her vision.

The Senior Director will report to both the CEO of the Rosalynn Carter Institute and the Director of the Carter Center’s Mental Health Program. While this is a remote position, the ideal candidate will be based in the Washington, DC, area and available for local in-person meetings and events to strengthen RCI and CC-MHP’s national presence and relationships with elected/appointed officials and allied organizations.



The successful candidate will, like Mrs. Carter, be a fierce and effective advocate with a belief in the power of policy and government for change, and a commitment to ensuring their work is done in partnership with, and is informed by, the diverse communities that RCI and CC-MHP serve.

## What You'll Do

As the Senior Director of Caregiver and Mental Health Policy, you will be building RCI and CC-MHP's policy agendas and national presence, leading the organizations through a new phase of impact and reach.

To make this vision a reality, you will:

**Set priorities and oversee them** – In collaboration with the heads of RCI and CC-MHP, you will set clearly defined public policy agendas. You will work closely with staff and manage relationships with consultants to support and align their various policy and advocacy activities.

**Create plans and see them through** – Focusing on these priorities, you will create multi-year strategic policy plans with defined steps that include gaps that RCI and CC-MHP can fill in the policy arena, outline where RCI and CC-MHP should be headed and map the path to get there.

**Put the missions front and center** – You will serve as RCI and CC-MHP's spokesperson and be a vocal presence at the relevant tables, ensuring RCI and CC-MHP's public policy agendas are seen and heard. You will participate in coalition-building activities; meet with public officials, policymakers, and influencers; give interviews; write op-eds; attend events; and present at conferences.

**Serve as a strategic advisor and bridge** – You will serve as a thought partner to RCI and CC-MHP's leadership and staff, advising them on the potential impact of proposed legislation and helping them develop appropriate responses. As you will be leading the federal policy activities of both RCI and CC-MHP, you will act as a bridge between them in service of Mrs. Carter's directive and will create a transparent communication and workflow process that fosters collaboration between its leaders.

**Do your part to fuel the cause** – As a consistent presence in Washington, you will identify resources only available through the legislative process such as congressionally directed spending and will actively cultivate funder relationships.

**Create resource tools to educate and advocate** – As part of your role to educate and inform, you will create reports on legislative and regulatory activities for RCI and CC-MHP staff, partners, and the media, and prepare research projects in support of the organizations' advocacy platforms and initiatives.

**In time, you will position RCI and CC-MHP as primary conveners and players** – Your long-term goal will be to take RCI and CC-MHP from supporting legislation and joining coalitions to developing and driving them. Your ongoing efforts to meaningfully engage multiple sectors and create effective partnerships will position RCI and CC-MHP as the go-to conveners of strong, collective engagement on caregiver and mental health issues.

## Who You Are

- **A strategist and lobbyist** – You are a highly strategic, media-savvy, and well-networked policy and advocacy leader based in the DC metro area with exceptional consensus, coalition-building, and communication skills.
- **Passionate** – RCI and/or CC-MHP's mission speaks to you. You have personal experience with caregiving, mental health, or a related issue. You share the organizations' commitment to human rights and the alleviation of suffering.
- **A Subject Matter Expert** – You understand how this particular game is played. You know which committees matter, who the players are, and how healthcare issues and payment models like Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements are prioritized within national policy arenas.
- **Analytical** – You have strong analytical skills to interpret data, identify trends, boost relationships, and work toward solutions.
- **Media ready** – You know how to work a room, host a gathering, and be camera ready.
- **Diplomatic** – You can speak both Red and Blue. A natural consensus builder, you have the temperament to work successfully with political leaders on both sides of the aisle and with organizational leaders across RCI's and CC's organizational cultures.
- **Indefatigable** – You are used to managing multiple priorities and have achieved hard-fought victories working with opposing forces, different stakeholders, and competing political agendas.
- **Visionary** – You are looking for an opportunity to make your mark and create something new. The opportunity to define and shape the policy agendas of not one but two exceptional institutions excites you.

## What We Offer

- \$170,000 - \$225,000
- Remote, flexible work environment
- Medical, dental, and vision plans, with no waiting period for new employees. Optional wellbeing services and additional resources and supports tailored for caregivers
- Optional 401k contribution
- Voluntary short- and long-term disability and life insurance
- Caregiver leave, in addition to paid vacation, sick leave, and holiday days
- The opportunity to work with a passionate team and build a transformative policy agenda that changes millions of lives for the better

## Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

RCI and CC-MHP recognize that our work impacts the full array of diverse communities who represent different cultures, circumstances, and geographies. Consequently, our understanding and embodiment of diversity, equity and inclusion are critical to effectively executing our respective missions.

Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQIA2S+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, two-spirit, plus other) folks, people with disabilities, and other marginalized communities are intentionally and systematically excluded from accessing vital resources, including caregiver and mental health support. We acknowledge this reality and aim to advocate for policy in support of caregivers and those affected by mental health issues from historically excluded communities and increase access to resources to provide holistic care.

We recognize that without intentional strategy to be inclusive in our approach, a variety of communities have not had access to the resources and support that we provide. This point of reflection will continue to drive change for us both internally and externally. We strive to ensure that all aspects of our work – from research to policy and advocacy to resource development – are done in partnership with, and are informed by, the diverse communities that we serve.

## DRG Talent

At DRG, our passion is purpose.

We partner with purpose-driven organizations that are making a difference in the world every day, bringing them the executive search and talent management consulting expertise they need. Our team of experts shares a commitment to the values that matter to our clients, bringing more than 30 years of experience to serving the nonprofit community.



This position description is based upon material provided by the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers and the Carter Center Mental Health Program, equal opportunity employers.

To apply for this position, please click [HERE](#).

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