



is seeking a

Senior Consultant
(50% for a period of 6 months)

for the
Global Partnership for Children

The Global Partnership for Children (the Partnership) exists to unite private funds around a clear and pressing goal: reducing reliance on residential institutions for children who are at risk of separation from their families and those currently living in institutions.¹

Despite overwhelming evidence that these institutions fail to meet children's needs and are more expensive than community alternatives, up to 8 million children remain in some form of institutional care – and in some countries the numbers are going up rather than decreasing. If action is not taken, these numbers may explode, driven by the impacts of global climate change, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the economic crises in the world's poorest families.

The Global Partnership for Children believes that private funders, working together and in concert with national and international partners, can make an important contribution. There is growing concern about the problem of institutionalization and a developing consensus on effective alternatives. What is lacking is leadership – people, groups and organizations that will give this issue sustained priority, devote the energy and resources required and build the alliances that can turn the tide in favor of children. In November 2009 member states adopted the United Nations Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. These guidelines, which reflect the “best interests of the child” principle endorsed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, recognize the need to prevent separation of children from their families and the value of family and community-based alternatives when such separation is necessary for the child's own protection. The Global Partnership for Children, along with other actors, is designed to seize this window of opportunity.

As example of what it can achieve, the Partnership is currently playing a leading role in supporting the Bulgarian Government in its efforts to deliver a comprehensive de-institutionalization plan that is responsive to the needs of children and families. The Partnerships contribution is to provide a) a partnership officer to work with the Bulgarian Government, and b) to deliver technical support on a range of issues to advance the Governments plan for deinstitutionalization and the development of community-based alternatives. The Partnership is looking to extend support to Africa or Asia.

The role of the Senior Consultant

Under the guidance of Oak Foundation, the consultant will:

1. Continue to develop and advance the Global Partnership (a major aspect of this role) by:
 - pursuing discussions with other private funders that embrace the Partnership's fundamental principles and who are interested in contributing core funding to the Partnership;
 - pursuing discussions with other private funders that are interested in bringing their experience to the Partnership, including projects that generate learning about innovative and effective interventions;
 - convening the Management Committee and proposing steps for setting up the Advisory Committee;

- presenting to Management Committee options for developing work in other regions of the world;
- pursuing discussions with relevant government and inter-governmental agencies, particular the European Union in 2011, and including bilateral and multilateral donors, to position the Partnership's initiatives.

2. Initiate the following action steps:

- identify successful and replicable models that will help develop best practices to prevent institutionalization of children and respond to the needs of those currently institutionalized;
- advocate for key policy and systemic change that will help governments and national and local actors implement the right decisions for children;
- monitor and evaluate – and learn from – the joint and individual projects of members of the Partnership;
- develop operational research into new areas that offer promising alternatives to institutionalization; and
- support Partnership members active in Bulgaria to assist the Government's deinstitutionalization plan.

Profile of Successful Candidate

We are seeking a person who is highly respected in the fields of child development and/or child protection. Ideally, the successful candidate will have extensive international experience, an advanced degree, at least ten years of relevant professional work experience that includes technical and operational leadership as well as guidance and coordination provided to key government and non-government partners.

Candidates need to be fluent in English. The location of this position is flexible. Competitive consultancy fees are offered. The consultant is expected to allocate 50% of his/her time to this consultancy for a six month period to be determined with Oak Foundation. The consultant must be free to travel.

To apply, please send your Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter by email to paul.nichols@oakfnd.ch, no later than 31st March 2011. Your letter should be addressed to:

Florence Bruce
 Director, Child Abuse Programme
 Oak Philanthropy
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 Switzerland

For further information about this position, please contact paul.nichols@oakfnd.ch.