

D.C. Market Lead for Federal & Global Engagement, ChiForward

Location: Washington, D.C. (preferred) or Chicago, IL

If interested, please email your resume and cover letter to ChiForward@worldbusinesschicago.com. Utilize the following format in the subject line: Application for NAME – DC Market Lead, ChiForward

About World Business Chicago

World Business Chicago (WBC) drives inclusive economic development and job creation, supports business growth, and promotes Chicago as a leading global city. Our team collaborates with public, private, and civic leaders to advance Chicago's competitive strengths and expand economic opportunity across the region.

About ChiForward

Housed and backed by WBC—the city's public-private economic development partnership supported by the Mayor's Office and Chicago's business community—ChiForward is a new initiative to turn Chicago into a top destination for financial investment by curating the city's most transformative projects and connecting them with investors who are motivated by resilient returns and Chicago's growth.

Position Summary

The D.C. Market Lead for Federal & Global Engagement will establish and lead ChiForward's satellite office in Washington, D.C., building the initiative's federal and international presence. The role will connect federal policy and funding opportunities with local investment priorities while cultivating relationships across key decisionmaking networks—including senior engagement with federal agencies, embassies, think tanks, multilateral organizations, and global investor networks. The role will serve as a strategic bridge between Washington and Chicago—aligning national policy, global capital flows, and high-priority projects in Chicago's investment portfolio. This position reports to the Managing Director of ChiForward.

Key Responsibilities

- Establish and lead a ChiForward satellite office in Washington, D.C., including operational setup and ongoing management.

- Build and maintain high-level relationships with federal agencies, embassies, multilateral organizations, think tanks, and global investor networks.
- Monitor and analyze federal policy developments, funding opportunities, and geopolitical trends that impact Chicago's investment portfolio.
- Facilitate strategic connections between federal resources, international capital flows, and Chicago's priority projects.
- Host, organize and lead roundtables, briefings, and public-private convenings to advance ChiForward's mission.
- Coordinate with the Chicago-based team to align policy engagement with capital attraction strategies.
- Track engagement outcomes and partnership development metrics.

Qualifications

- 7+ years in federal government, international affairs, investment, or advisory roles.
- Public-private credibility, diplomatic skill, and familiarity with the Chicago and D.C. markets.
- Strong networking and relationship-building capabilities with senior decisionmakers.
- Deep understanding of U.S. policy processes, geopolitical dynamics, and international capital flows.
- Must be willing to travel to Chicago on a monthly basis (or vice versa if based in Chicago)
- Familiarity with the Chicagoland area is preferred.

Salary Range & Benefits

- Estimated salary range: \$90,000 - \$120,000
- Medical, dental, 401(k), short- and long-term disability, vision, life insurance

WBC is an equal opportunity employer, and we are committed to creating an inclusive and accessible workplace. If you require accommodations during the application or interview process—or to perform the essential functions of this position—we encourage you to let us know. We will work with you to meet your needs in a respectful and confidential manner.