



## **Job Description: Director for Center for Housing Equity & Opportunities in Eastern CT**

### **Initiative Overview:**

The Center for Housing Equity & Opportunities in Eastern CT (CHEO) Initiative will regionally facilitate the intentional production, preservation, and protection of a full spectrum of housing that fosters equity and opportunity for housing for all. Established as a strategic partnership between the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut (CFECT), the Housing Collective, Partnership for Strong Communities, Regional Plan Association, Connecticut College, United Way of Southeastern CT, and Eastern CT State University, the CHEO will utilize a Collective Impact framework to align regional resources and deliver equitable housing solutions throughout the region.

### **Organizational Overview:**

The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut brings people together to work towards a healthy, thriving, sustainable Eastern Connecticut. We do this by putting philanthropy into action to address the needs, rights and interests of our region. Founded in 1983, The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut serves as the hub for meaningful philanthropy for 42 communities in the eastern third of our state. We are uniquely positioned to serve as a trusted philanthropic leader due to our in-depth knowledge of the region's needs; our over three decades of hands-on experience and our longstanding relationships with the nonprofit agencies, civic officials and other experts working on the front lines of our communities every day.

The Housing Collective, the backbone organization, is a CT-based nonprofit agency that applies a Collective Impact framework to deliver solutions to the most pressing housing problems. Focused on ending homelessness and creating equitable housing opportunities for all, the Housing Collective provides the leadership and support that enables productive, regional collaboration across organizations and sectors, and drives equitable systems change.

### **Position Overview:**

We are seeking a Director for the Center for Housing Equity & Opportunities in Eastern CT. The Director will be responsible for operationalizing a regional work plan to foster equitable access to inclusive affordable housing by activating community partners and influencing the creation, preservation, and diversity of regional affordable housing options for all. The Director will report to the Center for Housing Opportunity (CHO) Chief Initiative Officer and to a governance committee designated by the Steering Committee partners listed above. The Director will be an integral part of a team of peers and thought partners directing similar work in Fairfield and Litchfield Counties.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Design and Operationalize an Eastern CT version of the Centers for Housing Opportunity model/framework, standing up a regional collective impact initiative to address equitable access to safe and affordable housing
- Steward and develop relationships with a broad tent of cross-sector organizational and community leaders throughout the region including (but not limited to) housing practitioners, policymakers, resident and tenant organizations, human services organizations, municipal planners and leaders, local and state elected officials, anchor institutions, faith communities, and regional employers

- Approach all work through an equity lens, ensuring representation of local racial and ethnic groups at internal and external planning and decision-making tables
- Facilitate a regional “Housing Alliance” including a steering/advisory committee, to lead focus-area workgroups that address gaps in the regional housing system
- Be the public face of the CHEO by attending community meetings, public hearings, and advocacy events
- Integrate CHO’s “narrative change” strategy into all CHEO work to shift and build public will around housing as a driver of a thriving and equitable region
- Facilitate regular peer convenings of public housing authorities, tenants’ groups, community development corporations, municipal planners, and grassroots leaders to nurture regional relationships and to better understand challenges and gaps in the housing system
- Identify opportunities for potential strategic and funding partnerships and projects that address system gaps and challenges
- Assist in grant writing and reporting as needed
- Manage a regional initiative budget and provide regular reporting and accountability
- Manage and recruit volunteers and interns as necessary to increase capacity and engage community
- Meet with and report regularly to the Chief Initiative Officer and governance committee on regional strategy, work plan progress, budget status, challenges, and opportunities and partner with Directors of other CHOs in peer-to-peer learning and thought partnership
- Work with municipalities and Councils of Government (COGs) on planning, zoning, data, and other resources that support the regional preservation and production of affordable and equitable housing opportunities and leverage all available resources

**Position Qualifications:**

- The executive presence to inspire confidence and trust in both internal and external audiences
- At least 3-5 years of relevant work experience, including at least 3 years managing teams in a fast-paced and high-growth nonprofit, social enterprise, or business start-up environment
- Outstanding communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to build authentic relationships and negotiate with a diverse set of stakeholders
- Strong facilitation and presentation skills before multiple types of audiences including grass roots community partners and C-suite executives
- Experience with complex project management and stakeholder management
- Existing relationships with, or ability to build relationships with, a cross-sector range of community stakeholders and senior executives
- Strong preference for candidate from eastern Connecticut and familiar with regional dynamics and the housing sector
- Someone with initiative, endless enthusiasm, and contagious commitment
- Capable of working with multiple partners across the political spectrum toward accomplishment of goals

**Compensation:** Annual compensation starting at \$90,000 and commensurate with experience.

The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut does not discriminate against applicants or employees because of race, gender, ability, religious creed, national origin, marital status, age or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law.

**To Apply:** Send a letter of interest with your CV to Janet Grant at [janet@cfect.org](mailto:janet@cfect.org)