Vice President of Policy, Advocacy & Strategic Initiatives

Job Description

Background

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress was established in 1988 as a community development intermediary that supports the development of neighborhoods in Cleveland, Ohio. Neighborhood Progress catalyzes impact in Cleveland neighborhoods through a direct working relationship with Community Development Corporations (CDCs) as a funder, advocate, convener and facilitator, as well as through its own programming and projects. Neighborhood Progress also interacts with local, state and national stakeholders in the community development industry at the cutting edge of innovative policy development related to the planning and implementation of urban growth initiatives.

Neighborhood Progress's work is organized and guided by a four-year strategic plan, which defines the major impacts and outcomes the organization seeks to achieve in Cleveland. Metrics of Neighborhood Progress's performance and that of the CDC system generally are also derived from the strategic plan.

Responsibilities

The Vice President of Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Initiatives is a member of the Senior Team and reports to the President/CEO. As policy development and community advocacy are integral elements of community and economic development practice and the Neighborhood Progress mission, the Vice President works in the public policy and funding arena and is closely aligned with the leaders of each major Neighborhood Progress strategic goal (CDC Advancement, Economic Opportunity, and Placemaking). The ongoing development of and proactive support of Neighborhood Progress' policy agenda, civic engagement and racial equity and inclusion work are the primary responsibilities of this position.

The key responsibilities of the Vice President are as follows:

Policy
Goal: Proactively support the development of policies supportive of community & economic development in Cleveland.

- Maintain a working relationship with local elected officials and the governmental staff in legislative and administrative positions.
• Be a leader in policy development efforts among the stakeholders with which Neighborhood Progress collaborates, including major grant making organizations and other citywide, regional and national thinkers in the community and economic development industries.
• Develop policy initiatives that support the Neighborhood Progress Strategic Plan, and the strategic interests of CDCs.
• Monitor the national community and economic development conversation and represent Neighborhood Progress’ views and goals in national forums.
• Develop public funding priorities that support community and economic development in Cleveland neighborhoods.
• Staff Neighborhood Progress Policy & Advocacy Committee.

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Advocacy
Goal: Inform and advocate for public policies and funding that support Neighborhood Progress’ priorities and strategic goals.

• Lead and represent Neighborhood Progress and CDCs and strategically related policy initiatives and public funding before City, County, State and Federal policy makers.
  o CDC Advancement
  o Economic Opportunity
  o Placemaking
  o Development Finance
• Support efforts to bring government funding into community development in Cleveland.
• Establish collaborative relationships and strategic alliances with interested parties in support of the successful adoption of policy initiatives.
• Build upon and strengthen alignment of policy alignment of policy goals with the City of Cleveland administration, cabinet-level staff, key departments (Community Development, Economic Development, Building & Housing, and City Council).
• Publicly promote strategic public policies that support Neighborhood Progress and CDC work.

Strategic Initiatives
Goal: To define and lead execution of strategic initiatives that improve Neighborhood Progress’ effectiveness and performance.

• Racial Equity & Inclusion: In partnership with staff and stakeholders, lead an effort that recognizes the impact of racism on the Cleveland neighborhoods and begins to account for and ultimately reverse these negative impacts.
  o Lead work to improve racial equity and inclusion in Neighborhood Progress’ policies, processes and management.
Identify and promote resources to assist CDCs in improving racial equity and inclusion in their policies, processes, leadership and management.

Support initiatives that educate the public regarding the impact of racial inequity on community, neighborhood and economic development in Cleveland and nationally.

- Civic Engagement: In partnership with the organization’s senior leadership and key stakeholders, support an engaged citizenry for the advancement of our urban policy agenda.
  - Leverage the knowledge and connectivity of our Organizers and Allies to support the advancement of our urban policy agenda.
  - Collaborate with strategic partners to promote the development of civic engagement plans at Cleveland CDCs.

- Other – Define and lead execution of strategic initiatives as warranted by conditions at Neighborhood Progress and in the markets we serve

**Qualifications (minimum)**

- Three to five years direct or comparable experience with development or execution of public policy related to community and economic development at the local, state or national level
- Demonstrated experience as a liaison to government officials and/or as a senior manager at a public institution
- Interest in and passion for addressing a history of racist policies which have disadvantaged people of color and neighborhoods where they have been left behind

**Ideal Candidate Characteristics**

- Ten years of experience in leadership positions related to community and/or economic development
- Three to five years of experience in racial equity and inclusion related leadership position(s)
- Direct experience in the organization of economic growth initiatives such as community finance, real estate development deals, business attraction and retention strategies of infrastructure development planning and implementation
- Experience communicating policy positions and strategies related to community and economic development
- Demonstrated success in managing critical components of complex organizations

Please send all resume material to Toni White, twhite@clevelandnp.org

Position open until filled