

Climate Justice Initiative

The Fairmount Indigo CDC Collaborative (Dorchester Bay EDC, Codman Square NDC, and Southwest Boston CDC) is seeking a coordinator to support the work of the Collaborative in connection with an exciting new project funded by the Kresge Foundation: Climate Change, Health and Equity (CCHE). FICC is partnering with the Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition, the Fairmount Greenway Task Force, and Boston Medical Center on collaborative organizing efforts. If successful, this year-long planning grant will lead to a 3-year implementation grant.

BACKGROUND

With increasing storm water events, proximity to Atlantic coastal flooding, inland heat island effect rising, and the toxically polluted Neponset river and feeder brooks running through our neighborhoods, climate change further threatens the existing health and economic/social disparities. As Boston's Resilience Planning speeds up, we need to mobilize now to ensure policies for sustainable improvements in transit equity, green infrastructure, green construction practices, and air and water quality remediation for Boston and our neighborhoods.

The initiative will focus on education, engagement and developing organizing capacity in neighborhoods along 7 miles of the Fairmount rail corridor which serves 4 low-income, predominantly minority, under-resourced and underserved Boston neighborhoods (Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Hyde Park). The 3-year goal is to advocate for and successfully influence policies that mitigate climate impacts so that all of Boston, including Boston's most vulnerable residents, will benefit.

We will achieve our goals through classic grassroots organizing methods, mobilizing a corps of residents from the 4 communities into a unified front to push for policies that can protect our neighborhoods from climate change's worst effects, while promoting health and reducing the inequities that plague our neighborhoods.

The planning year (8/1/2019 – 9/30/2020) will be spent building the base and engaging in education around CCHE, leading to a resident written plan for a policy advocacy course of action for the implementation phase.

PROJECT GOALS

Accelerate FICC leadership in organizing/mobilizing for a community led response to CCHE. Develop leaders & strengthen grassroots base, to effectively advocate from the streets to the State House and develop systems change policies to promote health & equity. Pursue 4 climate resiliency goals:

CONNECT – Social cohesion & collaboration are climate change best practices

ABSORB – Protection from extreme weather events & flooding

COOL – To combat heat island effect

CLEAN - To ensure safety and health outcomes as climate change increases residents' direct contact with soil, air, and water.

STRATEGIES AND TASKS

We will coordinate our efforts specifically around larger policy issues through a “Fairmount Climate Change Roundtable.” This is the structure through which we seek to engage local residents and stakeholders in advocacy and organizing. The Consultant will focus on assisting our Organizing Directors and their staff to significantly expand the base of community leaders that are poised to advocate around this issue (at least 15-20 per CDC). The Consultant will assist the Organizers with base building (identifying and engaging/turning stakeholders out) to develop ground-up, policy based climate change, health, and equity campaigns.

The Consultant will also support CDC Organizing staff with leadership development, advocacy training, and campaign development and implementation for Fairmount Climate Change Roundtable stakeholders. Actions will include convening regular "Fairmount Roundtables" with 5-10 residents from each CDC's area, possible meetings with legislators, and large group corridor-wide action meetings.

Finally, while the individual CDCs comprising the FICC have extensive experience in resident support and engagement, staff capacity and experience in civic engagement vary. Thus, the successful candidate should expect to work closely not only with the FICC in a coordinating role, but also, as needed, with the

CDCs comprising the FICC to support community organizing capacity building and the respective organizing teams' efforts.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Prefer candidates with bachelors or master's degree plus at least three years' work experience. Non-degreed candidates with equivalent skills and five-plus years' work experience are also encouraged to apply.
- Must have community organizing experience that includes demonstrated, hands-on success in implementing organizing campaigns
- Relevant professional backgrounds include public health, social resilience, climate justice, environmental justice, non-profit advocacy, and urban planning.
- Fluency in Spanish or Haitian Creole or Cape Verdean Creole highly desirable
- Familiarity with the Fairmount Corridor neighborhoods a plus.
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings and occasional weekends, a must

For additional information about the Collaborative, please visit our website www.fairmountcollaborative.org

Please submit a cover letter, resume, relevant writing sample of no more than 2 pages, and contact information for three references by October 25, 2019 to Joan Tighe, Collaborative Coordinator, FICCposition2019@gmail.com