Partners for Rural Transformation Project Director

Join our growing team working to build stronger communities in Appalachia and the rest of Rural America! Fahe is on a mission to eliminate persistent poverty. Our unique collaborative model connects a Network of local, regional, and national leaders, all working together to uplift our nation’s rural places. Since our inception in 1980, the Fahe Network has served 616,694 people, made $908.2 million in direct investments, and achieved a total cumulative financial impact of over a billion dollars in Appalachia.

Job Summary:

The Partners for Rural Transformation consists of regional and national community development organizations that work together to affect change in rural America. The PRT is led by a Steering Committee, which consists of six regional CDFIs, Hope Enterprise Corporation / Hope Credit Union (HOPE), Fahe, cdcb, First Nations Oweesta Corporation, Communities Unlimited and RCAC. Collectively these organizations are working to change the narrative about rural persistent poverty areas of the country, and to change the way resources flow to these regions. The Project Director will be responsible for providing thought leadership and initiative to strategically engage PRT members to: implement the strategic plan and other evolving priorities; coordinate the collective and individual efforts of the member organizations; develop/expand the group’s reputation and influence; and identify and generate opportunities to engage philanthropic, government and financial institutions in dialogues that can result in policies and resources to eradicate persistent rural poverty. This is a senior level position.

Essential Duties and Functions:

The following is a list of the duties that the Project Director will be expected to carry out. A specific work plan will be developed collaboratively between the Project Director and the CEO’s of the six Steering Committee organizations:

1. Provide leadership in moving the PRT forward as a collective:
   a. Strengthen partner relationships, expand and implement strategies to enhance the group’s influence and impact.
   b. Provide thought leadership, initiative and energy to build on existing momentum.
   c. Strategically engage the expertise, influence, and reputations of the CEOs and their respective organizations.
   d. Steward the ongoing evolution and implementation of the group’s strategies and priorities over time.
2. Develop strategies to engage across multiple service and economic sectors in the PRT’s strategic plan and evolving priorities.
3. Create and identify opportunities for CEOs to engage in in discussions with senior government, philanthropic and banking officials, and participate in these discussions;
4. Oversee and engage in producing position papers, proposals, opinion pieces/editorials/articles for publication. Identify places to publish the writing.
5. Oversee research focused on creating better data and evidence about persistent poverty areas and solutions to eliminating persistent poverty.
6. Plan and facilitate regular meetings of the PRT and subcommittees; coordinate, plan and facilitate in-person meetings of the PRT Steering Committee.
7. Collaborate with PRT members to ensure completion of work assignments and general progress on the various parts of the strategic plan and the group’s evolving priorities.

Requirements for this position include:

Skills and Qualifications
- Ability to manage, coach, and direct work groups without supervision authority.
- Facilitation and meeting management skills.
- Familiarity with rural persistent poverty communities, cultures and social norms.
- Understanding of research methods and an ability to analyze data and draw logical conclusions.
- Ability to work with funders.
- Ability to deliver and carry out multi-year strategies, and manage strategy evolution over time based on ongoing learning and evolving contexts.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office, meeting planning programs, Zoom and other visual meeting platforms.
- Ability to listen effectively and communicate, verbally and in writing
- Ability to work independently and in teams, and to effectively prioritize multiple tasks.
- Strong initiative and collaborative nature. Ability to lead from behind.

Physical Job Requirements
- The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable persons with disabilities to perform the essential functions.
- Work performed in an office requires ability to operate computers and various pieces of office equipment, including telephone. Use may be heavy, 4 or more hours per day.
- This position also requires moderate (up to 2 days per month) to heavy (up to 10 days per month) automobile and airline travel, including overnight travel.

Preferred Education and Experience:

A combination of experience and education is necessary to qualify for the position. A typical qualifying combination may include:

Experience:
- Seven (7) years of any combination of applicable experience in community development finance or planning (education may be substituted for experience). Including at least three (3) years of leadership and project management experience.

Preferred Education:
- Master’s degree (additional qualifying experience may be substituted).

For the past three years, our staff nominated Fahe has one of the top 100 Best Places to Work in Kentucky. Fahe is an Equal Opportunity Employer seeking applicants who can bring diverse viewpoints, experience, talents, and culture to promote our organization’s mission of eliminating persistent poverty in Appalachia. We offer a diverse work environment with competitive salaries and excellent benefits. Visit www.fahe.org to learn more about Fahe.
Qualified candidates may submit a resume and cover letter with salary expectations to hr@fahe.org or mail to Fahe/ATTN: Human Resources; 319 Oak Street; Berea, KY 40403.