



**The Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing
Program Officer Job Announcement
New York City**

About the Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing

Founded in 2000, the Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing (FCYO) is a dynamic collective of social justice funders and youth organizing practitioners dedicated to advancing youth organizing as a strategy for youth development and social change. FCYO's mission is to increase resources to the field of youth organizing and promote the leadership of low-income young people and young people of color in social justice organizing. Our goals are focused on the following program areas:

- **Strategic grantmaking:** provide grants, capacity building, evaluation support, and shared learning spaces to youth organizing groups.
- **Research and publications:** build knowledge about the field of youth organizing, current trends and opportunities to produce leadership for a more sustainable and strengthened social justice movement.
- **Philanthropic advocacy:** provide education and advisement to funders on the impacts of youth organizing to help shape their grantmaking programs and to leverage funds for the youth organizing field.

At the center of our work is an enduring commitment to expanding the opportunity and ability for young people to exert their leadership in improving conditions for their families and communities, and to developing these youth as lifelong leaders for social justice. To date, FCYO has:

- Developed and disseminated eleven installments of the *Occasional Papers Series*, one of the most referenced resources on youth organizing, and conducted national field scans on the trends, challenges and opportunities in the field;
- Distributed over \$6 million in grants to youth organizing groups and intermediaries through our grantmaking programs;
- Influenced numerous foundations to fund youth organizing, and supported foundations in developing their own grantmaking strategies;
- Organized historic national gatherings and meetings of youth organizing groups to network, provide peer support, and share effective practices and resources.

Position Summary

FCYO seeks a visionary and knowledgeable Program Officer (PO) to lead our grantmaking initiatives, including our two signature programs: *Leadership Pipeline* and *Healthy Communities*. The PO's primary responsibility will be to support and build relationships with our grantee partners, and ensure that our current and future grantmaking initiatives are dynamic programs that strengthen youth organizing groups and contribute to a more connected and effective social justice movement. The PO will work closely with the Executive Director, FCYO staff, Board members, and consultants on grantmaking initiatives as well as FCYO's administrative duties and other program areas. This position will require some travel.

Leadership Pipeline was launched in 2010 to create a social justice leadership pipeline that starts in middle and high school and engages young people from the most marginalized communities. This program

emphasizes the importance of developing organizing skills in young people, while supporting their holistic development and facilitating their transition into higher education, meaningful employment, and future social justice involvement. Now in its third year, Leadership Pipeline currently engages 18 grantee partners from around the country in pipeline projects.

Healthy Communities was launched in 2011 to support 12 youth organizing groups to address the root causes of childhood obesity with a specific focus on improving access to healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant food in schools and communities. Moving into its third year, Healthy Communities will focus primarily on school food and efforts to influence national food policies.

Specific responsibilities will include:

- **Grantmaking:** Support grantees through regular communication and connecting them to helpful resources and opportunities. Oversee the grantmaking process, including conducting due diligence for grant selection and selecting and managing consultants. Lead the design and strategic visioning process for new grantmaking initiatives, including developing theoretical frameworks, goals and outcomes.
- **Capacity Building:** Manage capacity building program to support and strengthen grantee partners. Work with practitioners and key partners to design capacity building projects, including selection of technical assistance providers.
- **Research/Evaluation:** Oversee FCYO's research and publications (e.g., *Occasional Papers Series* and national field scans); document and present key learnings from grantmaking initiatives to philanthropic and practitioner communities. Identify and advance cutting edge research to generate dialogue among youth organizing field and philanthropy.
- **Convenings:** Design and coordinate regional and national grantee convenings to establish a learning community and provide grantees opportunities to share best practices.
- **Fundraising:** Cultivate and strengthen relationships with funders through advocacy and outreach efforts. Work with FCYO staff and Board to elevate the positive impacts of youth organizing, stay informed on funding trends and opportunities, and design and implement fundraising strategies to build resources and support for the field.

Qualifications:

- Minimum of 5 years of experience in social justice work with significant understanding of the youth organizing landscape nationally, including experience with youth organizing groups. Experience in fields related to current grantmaking initiatives (community organizing, youth development, youth civic engagement, food justice, and public health) strongly desired.
- Strong social justice analysis and understanding of movement building strategy.
- Experience in philanthropy a plus. Ability to manage grants and contracts with grantees and strategic partners.
- Strong analytical and writing skills, including synthesizing information into clear, concise, and compelling reports and briefing papers. Qualitative and some quantitative research skills desired.
- Strong oral communication skills; comfortable presenting information at meetings and conferences, and representing FCYO in the broader community.
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to build relationships and communicate effectively and professionally with a diverse range of people.
- Management experience required; financial management skills and fundraising experience desired.
- Able to identify and access relevant research, policy information, and individuals that will advance the work of FCYO.
- Ability to work independently and manage multiple projects effectively.
- Outstanding creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

Location: New York City

Job Type: Full-Time

Start Date: June 2013

Compensation: Commensurate with experience. Full benefits package.

More information about FCYO can be found at www.fcyo.org.

FCYO is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from women, people of color, and members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities.

Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter by April 30, 2013 to Will Buford, Operations and Development Manager, at will@fcyo.org. Please put "Program Officer" in the subject line. No phone calls please.