



Consultant to Support Advocacy/Policy Change Participatory Grantmaking Portfolio

Position Announcement

Position Overview

Fund for Shared Insight (Shared Insight) seeks a Consultant to assist Shared Insight's leadership team and core funders group in designing and managing a new participatory grantmaking portfolio focused on advocacy and policy change on climate change. The Consultant will facilitate the design and launch of a participatory grantmaking program focused on ways Shared Insight can support deeper and more meaningful connections between advocacy/policy change organizations focused on climate change and the people their work impacts through a process that "walks the walk" on equity, inclusion, continuous learning, and openness.

Background

Beginning in 2018, Shared Insight's core funders have been discussing potential ways to engage on advocacy and policy change. Building on the success of the Listen4Good feedback capacity building program for client-facing nonprofits and in line with Shared Insight's theory of change, we believe that the power and potential of feedback and meaningful connection extends beyond organizations in direct-service relationships with those they serve to those organizations that pursue positive community outcomes through policy and systems changes. But how do these organizations create meaningful connections with the people who are intended to benefit most from advocacy and policy change efforts? How do they include and elevate the voices of those most impacted by the policies they (and their funders) aim to change or improve? To begin to answer these questions, the advocacy subcommittee commissioned [a landscape scan](#) from the Aspen Institute in 2018, which was released earlier this year.

Heavily informed by this report and based on discussion and directional approval from the core funders in March 2019, the advocacy committee proposed a plan to experiment with ways that Shared Insight can support deeper and more meaningful connections between advocacy/policy change organizations and the people their works impacts through a participatory grantmaking process that "walks the walk" on equity, inclusion, continuous learning, and openness.

At their July 2019 meeting, the core funders gave further direction for this advocacy/policy change experiment to include a focus on those least heard yet most impacted by and vulnerable to climate change. A pool of funds (up to \$1.5M) was designated to use both for grantmaking dollars and for consultation support and operations for a participatory process to allocate those funds. Shared Insight is now hiring a consultant to shepherd the design phase of this work.

Our goals for this work are to:

1. Experiment with ways to support a range of advocacy/policy change organizations working on climate change to meaningfully connect with the people their work impacts.
2. Identify efficiencies in supporting this kind of capacity, if possible.
3. Experiment with participatory grantmaking to help elevate beneficiary voice and share power.

We expect that the design phase will benefit from a broad array of perspectives in the climate change advocacy community. The process will help the funders understand the landscape of climate advocacy in the United States with a focus on the state of meaningful connections with those least heard in that field. In recommending an approach for the initiative, the consultant will recommend a design for selecting participants, setting guardrails for the funding process, and designing the grant offering together with the participants. In order to maximize the learning and growth for the participating core funders of Shared Insight, our aspiration is that many participants will have some connection with the core funders' work beyond Shared Insight.

The Position

The position will report primarily to Melinda Tuan, Managing Director, Fund for Shared Insight, and work with a subcommittee of the Shared Insight Core Funders. At the outset, this position is likely to be roughly 20 hours/week, and then expected to vary over time.

There is flexibility with the work schedule, but the expectation is that the individual in this position will be available and able to respond to emails and participate in calls some time during business hours Monday through Friday 11am – 5pm ET. All Shared Insight consultants work remotely and communicate virtually. There will be domestic travel associated with this position.

This is a great opportunity for an individual seeking to apply inclusive strategic planning and facilitation skills with a passion for social and environmental justice, equity, and inclusion to the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. We encourage individuals who reflect the communities whose voices we seek to amplify, including LGBTQ+ and people of color, to apply.

Position Description

- Thoughtfully guide a design phase for a participatory grantmaking program to elevate the voices of those least heard yet most impacted by climate change in advocacy/policy change efforts to address the climate crisis.
- Work together with the Shared Insight committee to scope and structure the project, select and invite participants, establish the parameters and guardrails for the participatory grantmaking fund, and launch the fund.
- Plan, participate in, and facilitate in-person meetings with participants in the grantmaking progress.
- Provide guidance to Fund for Shared Insight regarding progress in meeting overall goals.
- Participate in an evaluation by ORS Impact of our work as part of the overarching assessment of Fund for Shared Insight's efforts.

Deliverable: A detailed plan and budget for a participatory grantmaking process, to be brought to the Shared Insight core funders in spring 2020 for approval.

Qualifications

- Commitment to social justice, equity, and inclusion; and a deep interest in lifting up the voices of the people least heard in society and whom nonprofits and foundations seek to help.
- Strong communication, cross-cultural, and interpersonal skills and comfort with synthesizing, interpreting, and presenting complex information to a variety of audiences.
- Familiarity with advocacy/policy change efforts in any field (experience in climate advocacy a plus but not required), and preferably with a range of organizations from community organizers to think tanks.
- Excellent facilitation skills.
- Experience planning and running participatory grantmaking programs or other inclusive processes.
- Detail-oriented and able to work efficiently.
- Ability to work independently and remotely as part of a dispersed and multi-cultural team.
- Familiarity with nonprofits and philanthropy in the climate change and climate justice space a plus.

Compensation

This position is an hourly contract position. Hourly rate will be \$125/hour, commensurate with experience.

Application Process

If you would like to apply, please send the following to Michelle Mengel (michelle@fundforsharedinsight.org), Program Manager, **no later than Monday, December 30, 2019**:

- Your resume
- A response (~1 page or less) to this prompt:

What could be possible if climate change advocacy/policy change efforts became more participatory, including those most impacted by climate change? What constraints stand in the way of this goal?

We will be in contact once we receive your information. Please note that interviews will be conducted via videoconference during the week of January 13, 2020. If you proceed to an interview, we will ask for two references.

Please contact Michelle Mengel if you have any questions.

Position posting date: November 8, 2019; updated November 21, 2019

Application deadline: December 30, 2019

Interview phase: Week of January 13, 2020

About Fund for Shared Insight

Fund for Shared Insight is a funder collaborative working to improve philanthropy by elevating the voices of those least heard. Our goal is for foundations and nonprofits to be meaningfully connected to each other and to the people and communities we seek to help—and more responsive to their input and feedback.

Learn more at fundforsharedinsight.org.