We envision a nation in which prosperity is in reach for all. Join us!

Community Champion application process is open until July 10, 2017

Background on the Prosperity Now Community

Prosperity Now (formerly CFED) is committed to continuing our support of and partnerships with our movement of committed advocates and practitioners seeking to create a clear path to financial stability, wealth and prosperity. The Prosperity Now Community (formerly Assets & Opportunity Network) expands our reach, creates strong connections between those in our community and mobilizes advocates to create lasting social change.

The Prosperity Now Community facilitates learning, creates connections and inspires action to create and improve programs and policies that foster opportunity, especially for those who have not had it before. Our unwavering commitment to creating prosperity includes efforts on a wide range of issues, such as consumer protections, equity in the tax code, increasing affordable housing and removing barriers to saving and building wealth.

As a part of this work, Prosperity Now will continue to identify key leaders in communities across the country to be our partners in advancing strong and effective programs and policies at all levels of government. What is new about this level of engagement, is that there will now be a stronger emphasis on partnering with state, local and tribal groups that coordinate a network or coalition and are committed to advancing policy. These partners will now be called Prosperity Now’s Community Champions.

For those not working on policy, there are also many new ways for you to engage with Prosperity Now through our networks. You can learn more about them on the new Prosperity Now website launching June 19th.

Role for Community Champions: Connect and Inspire Action

Organizations that have an active leadership and convening role in their state, local or tribal community can become Community Champions. Community Champions are the groups Prosperity Now will turn to for federal, state and local opportunities. They’re seen as our partners on the ground, convening others around these issues, sharing information and working to create greater wealth equity for all. And Prosperity Now will have a commitment to building up the knowledge, skills and capacity of these Champions to be stronger and more effective leaders as best as we’re able. We have a commitment to work together to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive in ways such as:
In order to make these a reality for all people, especially people of color, we are currently focusing on the following policy priorities:

- Consumer protection
- Equitable tax reform
- Affordable Housing
- Protecting the Safety Net

**Partnership Expectations: Community Champions and Prosperity Now**

**Community Champions will commit to:**

- Being our point of contact (or connecting us to the right person in your state or locality) on pertinent federal advocacy opportunities for issues related to consumer protections, affordable homeownership, safety net, or tax code equity. Opportunities for engagement include, but are not limited to:
  - Calling or visiting your Member of Congress (in-district and on Capitol Hill)
  - Participating in a sign-on letter or public comment period on an issue
  - Using social media and other forms of communication (letters to the editor, op-ed, blog posts) to build awareness on an issue

- Sharing advocacy opportunities with your coalition partners as they are announced, and encouraging them to take action.

- Leading a delegation of peers from your region on periodic Capitol Hill and federal agency visits. This will happen at least every other year at the Assets Learning Conference.

- Reporting annually on activities related to: your coalitions/partnerships, information sharing, advocacy, service delivery and fundraising activities.¹

**Other Opportunities for Community Champions to Engage as Leaders in the National Community:**

¹ The purpose of reporting is three-fold: to allow the Community to adapt and improve its strategies, to demonstrate collective impact, and to attract more resources to the field. Prosperity Now staff will share aggregated data with all Community Champions to use in their fundraising and case-making documents.
• Suggest topics for, participate in and consider facilitating learning groups, webinars and in-person capacity-building workshops
• Offer perspectives and mentorship to other partners via the listserv, learning groups, in-person events and other opportunities
• Share advocacy efforts, experiences and successes with Prosperity Now staff to be featured in newsletters, online learning opportunities, and through events
• Serve in leadership roles, including as a learning group or working group facilitator or on the Community Steering Committee
• Engage in state and local policy and advocacy

Prosperity Now will commit to:
• Raising your organizational profile via promotion on Prosperity Now’s website or as a guest blogger
• Providing early access to annual Scorecard data and other Prosperity Now publications
• Facilitating direct connections for you to other state, local and Native leaders doing similar work
• Inviting you to participate in exclusive events, speaking roles at convenings, and advocacy training opportunities
• Offering technical assistance and ad hoc advice for your state and local advocacy work. Deeper coaching and technical assistance will be provided to states working on the priority policy issues listed above.
• Providing access to state and national experts on policy issues through direct connections, learning events or convenings
• Providing access to coalition building learning opportunities, coaching and peer working groups
• Seeking out resources to support your work and professional development, such as scholarships to attend events or pass through dollars, as we’re able to do so. This is not a guarantee, but we commit to looking and trying!

2017 Application

Selection Criteria: Ideal Community Champions will:
• Agree to engage your partners in federal advocacy as facilitated by Prosperity Now (i.e. send out advocacy alerts to your distribution lists, encourage partners to take an action, call or visit your

2 The Steering Committee is a 12-person formal advisory body for the Community that reflects the diversity of partners in the Community. Each Committee member can serve for up to two two-year terms.

Community Champions
2017 Application
Member of Congress, etc.). This does not mean you will do this for every action alert—we are looking for those who are willing to do this on key priorities.

- Connect with your peers at the state, local and/or tribal level on policy, service delivery and/or information sharing.
- Engage in the Prosperity Now Community (e.g. respond to email requests for feedback, posts on listserv(s), complete annual reporting survey, share learning activities and events with your partners as relevant, etc.)

**Selection Process:** Applicants will be assessed based on their:

- Ability to engage coalitions members or partners on federal and/or state advocacy
- Capacity to partner with Prosperity Now and meet expectations laid out above
- Commitment to leverage the Community Champion role to advance economic opportunity
- Alignment with Prosperity Now priorities and goals

**Important Timelines:**

- Applications for Community Champion are due on *July 10, 2017*
- Prosperity Now staff will review applications and notify applicants by late July
- Selected Community Champions will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by late July

**Number of Community Champions:** The Community aims to have a state, local and/or tribal Community Champion in each state, locality or tribal area, contingent on interest and capacity. There is no limit to the number of Community Champions in a state, local or tribal area. However, collaborative discussions between partners from the same geographic area is encouraged.

**Length of Term:** Community Champions commit to serving a two year term. At the end of one term, if the Community Champion has met the commitments summarized above, the organization will be invited to continue to be a Champion for an additional term.

**Application Form and Required Information:** Organizations interested in being considered for Community Champion roles should apply here. Applications should include:

- Name of the organization or coalition applying to become a Community Champion
- Name and title of contact person at the organization, coalition
- Email, phone number and mailing address of applicant (organization or coalition)
- Organization Website URL
- Details on how the applicant meets criteria for selection (see above)

Applicants are asked to answer the following questions (in the application form) in no more than 250 words per response:

1. Why are you interested in being a Community Champion? How do you see this opportunity aligning with your current goals and work?

2. Does your organization lead a coalition seeking to advance financial capability or asset-building strategies? If you do not coordinate a coalition or network, do you regularly connect with peers to advance asset building or financial capability strategies in your state or locality? (If yes to either,
please share the names of the coalitions or networks you’re coordinating with and the number of organizations connected with each one.)

3. What are your organization or coalition’s top 3-5 goals and priorities for advancing financial security and empowerment in your state/locality over the next year or two?

4. Please share 2-3 examples of types of activities or strategies your organization or coalition has typically coordinated with others to advance financial security and empowerment strategies. (E.g., creating a common policy agenda, creating an action alert distribution list, creating a sign-on letter, coordinating an advocacy day or training, etc.)

5. What level of interest and ability does your organization have in partnering with Prosperity Now on the following federal policy campaigns? Partnership activities would include high-level activities like writing an op-ed or visiting a member of Congress, low level activities like sending action alerts to partners or signing a sign-on letter. Please indicate high, low or none.
   - Consumer protection
   - Tax reform
   - Affordable housing
   - Safety net programs

6. Do you have any concern about your capacity to take on this partnership role as a Community Champion with Prosperity Now (as previously described)? If so, please explain.

Questions about the application process?
Contact us at dduratinsky@cfed.org or csandler@cfed.org.