

PROSPERITY NOW COMMUNITY

Community Champions Application

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

The Community Champion application process is open until October 19, 2018

Background on the Prosperity Now Community

Prosperity Now (formerly CFED) is committed to partnering with advocates and practitioners across the country, seeking to create a clear path to financial stability, wealth and prosperity. The Prosperity Now Community expands our reach by creating strong connections between those in our Community, mobilizing 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 low-income communities and people of color.

Role for Community Champions: Connect and Inspire Action

Organizations that have an active leadership and convening role in their state, local or Native community can become **Community Champions**. Community Champions are the groups Prosperity Now turns to for federal, state and local opportunities. They're our partners on the ground, convening others around federal, state and local policy issues, sharing information and working to create greater wealth equity for all. Prosperity Now is committed to building the knowledge, skills and capacity of these Champions to be even stronger and more effective leaders.

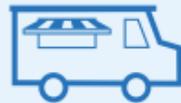
We aim to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to:



Make a down
payment on your
FIRST HOME.



Afford to send your
kids to **COLLEGE.**



Launch that
SMALL BUSINESS
you've dreamed about.



Build a healthy
RETIREMENT
NEST EGG



Put away a little
EMERGENCY SAVINGS
for a rainy day

To make these goals a reality for all, and especially people of color and those of low income, we are currently focusing on the following policy priorities:

- **Consumer protection** – including predatory lending and protecting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- **Equitable tax reform** – including turning the tax code right side up in a way that benefits low-income families
- **Homeownership** – including affordable homeownership and fair lending
- **Protecting the safety net** – including public benefit programs and access to savings

While these are not the only policy issues we care about, they are the ones around which we are currently focusing our advocacy. If your organization is willing and able to support and advocate on behalf of the above issues, even if they are not your main priorities, we encourage you to apply to become a Community Champion.

For those not working on policy, there are other ways for you to engage with Prosperity Now through our Networks, which you can learn more about at www.prosperitynow.org/get-involved.

Partnership Commitments

Community Champions will commit to doing two or more of the following at least 3 times per year:

- 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, housing, safety net, or tax code equity. Opportunities for engagement can include, but are not limited to:
 - Calling or visiting your Member of Congress (in-district and on Capitol Hill)
 - Participating in other advocacy opportunities, including sign-on letters, offering public comments, providing testimony, etc.
 - 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 via (and sign for) our [Prosperity Now Advocacy Center](#).
- 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 [Prosperity Summit](#).
- Signing up for Prosperity Now's Federal Policy Campaign(s) based on your area of interest – and/or sending campaign information and advocacy opportunities to your networks and/or partners.
- Reporting annually on activities related to: your coalitions/partnerships, information sharing, advocacy, service delivery and fundraising activities. Annual reporting is required.

Other opportunities for Community Champions to engage as leaders in the Community 1-2 times per year:

- 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, best practices and successes with Prosperity Now staff to be featured in newsletters, online learning opportunities, and through events.
- Serve in leadership roles, which might include learning group or working groups facilitator or on the Community Steering Committee.¹
- Engage in state and local policy and advocacy.

Prosperity Now commits to doing 1-2 of the following for each of our Community Champions:

- 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, and possibly help plan, 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!

Let us know what opportunities work best for your organization.

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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 Member of Congress, etc.), as time and capacity permits.
- Connect with your peers at the state, local and/or Native level on policy, service delivery and/or peer sharing.

¹ 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.

- 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 coalition 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 **October 19, 2018**.
- Prosperity Now staff will review applications and notify applicants by November 16, 2018.
- Selected Community Champions will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by December 14, 2018.

Number of Community Champions: The Community aims to have a state, local and/or Native 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 can apply in one of three ways.

1. Apply via [this survey application](#).
2. Apply via video responding to the information or questions below. Email videos to community@prosperitynow.org.
3. Apply via phone interview, which will ask you to respond to the questions below. To schedule a phone interview, email community@prosperitynow.org.

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
- Whether your organization or coalition's leadership (board and executive team) is primarily made up of people of color.

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

Community Champions 2018 Application

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. How does your coalition or organization work to advance racial equity in your community?
7. 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@prosperitynow.org or community@prosperitynow.org.

