NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania
Leadership Development Program Announcement:
Pittsburgh Hilltop Cohort

Overview
NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania is launching a Leadership Development Cohort Program which will begin in July 2014, focusing on the Hilltop neighborhoods of Allentown, Arlington, Arlington Heights, Beltzhoover, Bon Air, Carrick, Knoxville, Mt. Washington, Mt. Oliver (borough), Mt. Oliver (city), St. Clair, and South Side Slopes. The purpose of this program is to empower emerging leaders who are working to improve their communities by building their leadership skills and community development capacity as they advance community-driven change. A total of 4 selected participants will be part of a supportive learning circle, or cohort.

The Leadership Development Cohort combines skill-building workshops with peer-to-peer learning, one-on-one coaching, and formal community development through the following activities:

NeighborWorks Training Institutes
Cohort participants will attend four (4) NeighborWorks Training Institutes over a 24 month period, while working toward a certification in one of the following areas:

- Community Engagement
- Community & Neighborhood Revitalization
- Management & Leadership

The NeighborWorks Training Institute is nationally regarded as one of the premier professional development opportunities in the community development field. Institutes are five (5) days long and are held quarterly at locations around the country, allowing for learning and networking with peers and colleagues nationwide.

For more information on professional certificate tracks and required coursework, visit [http://www.nw.org/network/training/programs/default.asp](http://www.nw.org/network/training/programs/default.asp) and click on professional certificate track of interest.

The first Institute will be held August 18th – August 22nd, 2014 in Orlando, Florida. Other NeighborWorks Training Institutes are as follows:

- Washington, DC: December 8th – December 12th, 2014
- Los Angeles, CA: February 23rd – February 27th, 2015
- Kansas City, MO: May 4th – May 8th, 2015
- Washington, DC: December 7th – December 11th, 2015
Leadership Development Workshops
The Leadership Development Workshops will be held locally and on a monthly basis, providing cohort members with skills and disciplines – such as vision and purpose setting, consensus building and compromise, and stakeholder communication – necessary to build individual and organizational capacity.

Peer Groups
Cohort members will have the opportunity to learn from one another by working collaboratively to address pressing issues in the community through individual and group projects. Participants will share ideas, resources, and challenges with one another on at least a quarterly basis.

Community Development
In addition to the formal learning opportunities provided through the NeighborWorks Training Institute, cohort members will have the opportunity to learn about local resources to address common community issues, such as blight, public safety, housing, and economic development. Participants will identify collective community issues and invite subject matter experts to hold trainings on the identified issues. Cohort members will also be informed of and encouraged to attend locally-offered trainings conducted by other agencies.

Coaching
Cohort members will work one-on-one with coaches who will help these emerging leaders to clarify their vision and values and realize their goals and objectives.

Value of Program
This is a highly competitive and beneficial training. **The value of one scholarship is $20,000.** Cohort members will receive:

- Monthly leadership development training, including workshops, one-on-one coaching, and peer learning
- Tuition to 4 consecutive NeighborWorks Training Institutes (5 days each) until a certificate has been achieved
- Shared room & board at the training site hotel (5 nights per training)
- Reimbursed transportation costs between the airport and conference site
- Per diem expenses for food and incidentals at all NeighborWorks training Institutes
- Access to local community development experts and resources

Program Guidelines
Cohort members will be expected to:

- Attend monthly leadership development workshops and trainings, set to begin in July 2014 (meetings may be held twice a month on occasion)
- Attend 4 NeighborWorks Training Institutes (5 days each) over a 24-month period
• Be present for the entire duration of each course taken at the NeighborWorks Training Institutes
• Obtain a certificate in the recipient’s specified area of interest within 24 months of beginning the scholarship program.
• Attend peer group meetings and participate in one-on-one coaching
• Be willing to share knowledge gained through the program with cohort peers, alumni, and community members

Applicants must:
• Reside in and serve a community in one of the Hilltop neighborhoods
• Demonstrate a passion and commitment to building a thriving and inclusive community
• Be interested in working and collaborating with others as a group
• Be willing to make a substantial time commitment, attending a minimum of two (2) NeighborWorks Training Institutes annually and 1-2 local leadership development trainings per month over a 24-month period
• Provide a current professional resume
• Complete the following application form

Priority will be given to individuals:
• Who are working in low-income and/or minority communities
• Who volunteer or work for an organization with limited leadership capacity
• Who are committed to staying and working in their community past the 24 month time period required for certification
• Who can demonstrate a clear financial need for the scholarship (individually or organizationally)
• Who make a good case for how the scholarship will contribute to their current work, to their community, and to the community development system overall

To apply, please complete the following application and submit, along with a current resume, to Lauren Stoner at lstoner@nwwpa.org. Applications must be received by noon on Monday, June 9th. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance status no later than Friday, June 20th. If you have any questions about the attached application, please contact Lauren at lstoner@nwwpa.org or (412) 326-9839.
NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania
Leadership Development Program Application
Pittsburgh Hilltop Cohort

Please complete the form and return, along with a current resume, to Lauren Stoner at lstoner@nwwpa.org by noon on Monday, June 9th.

I. Personal and Contact Information

Applicant Name and Job Title:

Name of Organization and/or Neighborhood:

Home Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

II. Application Questions

1. Desired Certification Track (pick one):
   - Community Engagement
   - Community & Neighborhood Revitalization
   - Management & Leadership

(For more information on professional certificate tracks and required coursework, visit http://www.nw.org/network/training/programs/default.asp and click on professional certificate track of interest.)

2. Do you plan to be living in the Hilltop in 24 months?

3. Do you plan to be living in the Hilltop in 5 years?

4. Please describe your commitment to your community. List your involvement in community groups and organizations, including length of involvement, any leadership roles, and accomplishments:
Using no more than 750 words for each, please answer the following:

5. Please describe an issue in your community you would like to help address:

6. Please describe the state of community leadership in your neighborhood:

7. How will your participation in the program contribute to your community work?

8. How will you share what you have learned with others in your community and beyond to help advance change?

9. Is there anything else you wish to consider in the evaluation of your application?

III. References

Please list two references. References should be familiar with your community work.

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Thank you!