

Executive on Loan

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

January 28, 2020

The New Jersey Funders ACEs Collaborative is seeking an “Executive on Loan” to share their expertise with the State of New Jersey, leading and coordinating statewide efforts to prevent, protect against, and heal from the effects of ACEs. The Executive on Loan position will be a two-year contract with the NJ Funders ACEs Collaborative.

Background

In recent decades, researchers have identified and examined the profound effect of adverse experiences during childhood on outcomes later in life. ACEs can include psychological, physical, and sexual abuse as well as exposure to substance abuse, mental illness, violence, and parental incarceration. ACEs activate the stress response in a child’s brain over the long term, creating toxic stress and stunting emotional and cognitive development. The impact of ACEs on communities and individual lives can be far-reaching and lasting, affecting behavioral health, physical health, education outcomes, and family stability.

ACEs, however, are not inevitable, nor do they have to determine the destiny of a child who experiences them. ACEs can be prevented, and when they do occur, concrete steps can be taken to help children heal. Research is emerging on effective prevention and healing/resilience strategies that can be deployed in schools, communities, healthcare settings, and other places where children are supported. The latest Center for Disease Control study finds that preventing childhood trauma could potentially prevent 1.9 million cases of coronary heart disease, 2.5 million cases of obesity, 21 million cases of depression, and keep 1.5 million students in school.

To effectively prevent, protect against, and help families heal from these effects, New Jersey must take an equally expansive and comprehensive approach.

In the fall of 2018, three NJ private grantmaking foundations – between [the Burke Foundation](#), [The Nicholson Foundation](#), and [the Turrell Fund](#) – formed the NJ Funders ACEs Collaborative, a partnership with State government that aims to reduce the incidence and impact of ACEs in New Jersey. This public-private alliance seeks to dramatically increase public awareness of ACEs and activate members from sectors such as health, business, education, child welfare, government, nonprofit and philanthropy to coordinate in addressing ACEs. In the summer of 2019, the NJ Funders ACEs Collaborative published the [Adverse Childhood Experiences: Opportunities to Prevent, Protect Against, and Heal from the Effects of ACEs in New Jersey](#) report, which launched a statewide discussion around addressing ACEs and will continue to inform engagement through the development and implementation of a statewide Action Plan in 2020.

Responsibilities

Essential duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Lead and support the development of policy and other public initiatives related to ACEs and act as liaison between the NJ Funders ACEs Collaborative and the State government to achieve agreed upon goals;
- Staff a public-private committee to coordinate statewide work related to ACEs, including the development and implementation of a statewide Action Plan;
- Devise, manage, and report quarterly progress on a work plan that supports the implementation of the pending statewide Action Plan;
- Represent and communicate New Jersey initiatives related to ACEs at meetings, conferences, and public events in New Jersey and nationally;
- Offer technical assistance and strategic support to all New Jersey initiatives operating under the statewide Action Plan; and
- Identify grassroots/community-led ACEs efforts across New Jersey, offer partnership and support, and provide opportunities to coordinate with the statewide Action Plan.

Qualifications and Requirements

The Executive on Loan must possess the below listed qualifications and experience:

- Master's Degree in Social Work, Public Administration, or related field;
- At least five (5) years' experience administering social or medical programs;
- Knowledge of the research into, and state of interventions related to ACEs;
- Active engagement with work on ACEs at the national and state level and familiarity with ACEs research and evaluation;
- Demonstrated ability to form and manage relationships with public and private leaders;
- Demonstrated ability to facilitate complex change processes and manage large-scale projects with several moving pieces;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills; and
- Ability to synthesize complex information quickly and present to diverse audiences.

Additional Details

1. The Executive on Loan will be assigned to the Department of Children and Families (DCF).
2. The position will be a two-year contract with the NJ Funders ACEs Collaborative. The position will be based in Trenton, NJ, with frequent travel throughout the state.
3. The Executive on Loan shall be advisory and he or she shall have no financial decision-making authority while working on behalf of the State of New Jersey.
4. The Executive on Loan must comply with all New Jersey confidentiality requirements.
5. While the Executive on Loan is working with the State of New Jersey, the Administration shall be mindful of any potential conflict of interest involving the loaned executive and executive branch agencies.
6. The Executive on Loan shall not be employed by, nor represent any entity that is a vendor to or plans to become a vendor to the State of New Jersey.
7. Salary, including expenses, are to be paid by the NJ Funders ACEs Collaborative (the Burke Foundation, The Nicholson Foundation, and the Turrell Fund).
8. Eligible candidates must undergo and successfully complete a background investigation.

Detailed Duties & Responsibilities:

1. **Statewide Action Plan:** Oversee statewide Action plan development and implementation including but not limited to:
 - a) Convene quarterly meetings among Action Plan leads to discuss completed action steps.
 - b) Write and share quarterly reports on the status of Action Plan objectives to the NJ Funders ACEs Collaborative, DCF leadership, and other interested parties as appropriate.
 - c) Work with state, local, and community members to implement the Action Plan and achieve the goals identified therein.
 - d) Collect, monitor, track progress, and report on Action Plan performance measurement data.
2. **Steering Committee Leadership:** Establish Action Plan Steering Committee composed of sector-specific leaders to participate in the implementation of the Action Plan.
 - a) Convene regular meetings with steering committee members.

- b) Facilitate discussion and learning opportunities for Committee members.
 - c) Present and promote Steering Committee recommendations to NJ Funders ACEs Collaborative and DCF leadership for implementation in the statewide Action Plan.
3. **Initiative Building:** Support stakeholder identification and engagement and facilitate cross-sector partnerships.
- a) Engage all sectors to ensure that work is diverse and representative.
 - b) Build and strengthen the state’s capacity to change systems and address multiple interconnected issues related to ACEs.
 - c) Provide technical assistance to partners in the areas of planning and resource development activities to ensure sustainability.
4. **Representation:** Attend and represent the state at all regional and state-led ACEs meetings and initiatives, including, but not limited to DCF-sponsored ACEs conferences and meetings.
5. **Evaluation and Reporting:** Develop evaluation plan and criteria. Report evaluation findings quarterly or as appropriate.
- a) Contribute to and advise on statewide Action Plan evaluation metrics.
 - b) Prepare quarterly budget and expense reports.

Application Process

Please send a cover letter addressed to Michelle Fouks, Chief Fiscal Officer at the following email address:

cchesnakov@thenicholsonfoundation.org by February 7, 2020.

We're an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status.