



STRIDES FOR PEACE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

About the Opportunity

Strides for Peace is looking for an Executive Director to help lead the organization during this exciting phase of growth and development. The ideal candidate will be passionate about our mission, be a strong networker and communicator who understands the nonprofit sector, has experience with a nonprofit start-up, is a self-starter, possesses an entrepreneurial drive and is committed to field and capacity building of community organizations.

The Executive Director, in consultation with Strides' founder and board members, will oversee and implement all aspects of planning and program development, administration and operations, program implementation, fundraising, external relations and communications, events management (including the annual Race Against Gun Violence), and community and civic engagement.

Key priorities for Strides' Executive Director will include (but are not limited to):

- Inspiring and cultivating stakeholders, including building strategic relationships necessary to ensure the success of a new organization
- Advancing the identity and visibility of Strides in community, civic, and public arenas and represent Strides to external stakeholders
- Executing and strengthening internal operations and management
- Implementing and deepening Strides program portfolio

Qualifications

Education Bachelor's Degree or commensurate experience is required. Masters in related field preferred.

Experience At least 5 years of professional leadership experience in nonprofit management and program development, marketing and communications, and events and/or project management.

Other requirements

- Deep knowledge of critical issues affecting Chicago's underinvested communities.
- Relationships with community leaders, stakeholders and nonprofit-civic ecosystem in Chicago
- Experience in fundraising and events/project management
- Hands on approach to leadership and collaboration
- Excellent written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills across multiple mediums (social media, grant writing, etc.) with ability to make effective oral presentations and facilitate learning environments for large and small groups.
- Knowledge of nonprofit field and capacity building needs and best practices
- Ability to think creatively and design innovative approaches to persistent problems
- Demonstrated commitment to service, civic engagement and social justice.
- Desire to support and nurture programs that connect people, communities, and causes.
- Strong work ethic, high energy, and desire to thrive in a demanding environment.
- Ability to take initiative, work independently, meet deadlines and handle multiple projects in a rapidly changing environment - including interruptions and adjustments to priorities.
- Ease and experience working with individuals and groups from diverse cultural, ethnic, and geographic backgrounds.
- Commitment to working beyond traditional working hours and schedules in order to support community organizations and their scheduling needs.
- The position will require travel throughout the Chicago area.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, Mail Chimp, social media platforms and other data management tools.
- Sense of humor, take work but not self seriously, and flexibility.



About the Organization

Vision

Strides for Peace envisions a Chicago where all can thrive and live free of the fear of gun violence.

Mission

Our mission is to increase the collective impact of community organizations working to end gun violence, save lives and build a stronger Chicago.

We believe that everyone has a stake in ending gun violence and that communities have the answers. Our work is centered around harnessing the power of community organizations and providing new pathways for people who care to get involved.

Our Strategy

Our strategy is founded on the understanding that community organizations and grassroots leaders are among our city's greatest assets, but too often are left out of decision- and policy-making, resulting in approaches and narratives that miss opportunities for impact, equity and change. We view these structural exclusions as creating investment and proximity gaps, and our work is centered on closing these gaps by providing funding, field development, advocacy and civic engagement opportunities.

Our Core Values

Equitable Partnerships

We believe true partnerships are ones where there is shared power and mutual benefit. Our community partners are our north star.

Trusted Relationships

We believe that making structural change requires relationships with the people and communities most impacted and the engagement of diverse stakeholders.

Lived Experience

We believe an understanding of our problems and their attending solutions must include the strategic insights gained from people most impacted and those with boots on the ground, responsible for street level implementation.

Better Together

We believe that to end gun violence we must invest in collaboration, lead with what we share in common and learn from each other.

Open Doors

We believe to end gun violence we must meet people where they are and offer new ways to deepen their understanding and engagement.

Change

We believe change is not an intellectual exercise but a human experience. Love, trust, and hope are essential ingredients of change.

The work of Strides for Peace is centered around the following core programs:

Investment

Strides for Peace believes community organizations and grassroots leaders are among our city's greatest assets, but that investment gaps exist, missing opportunities for impact, equity and change. We address these gaps by providing community-driven funding, opportunities to raise unrestricted funds, in-kind resources and administrative support. All of our investments, whether financial or in-kind, are led by what our community partners say they need to be more effective. By addressing investment gaps in the current nonprofit ecosystem, we help to better leverage existing resources.

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Field and Capacity Building

We strive to increase impact by seeding an ecosystem for convening, collaborating, networking and learning for those working to address community gun violence.

Convene

We bring organizations and individuals from across Chicago to share knowledge and resources about a number of strategic, program and administrative issues.

Collaborate

Collaboration takes an investment in time and skill and faces many barriers. We do the muscle work on key projects to facilitate collaboration and ensure insights can turn into action. In addition, we foster collaboration across a number of our key activities such as the Race Against Gun Violence and targeted introductions to organizations and individuals with aligned missions.

Network

Insight and innovation often emerge organically, resulting from informal conversations and relationships. We facilitate events to expand relationships and influence across the nonprofit ecosystem which includes community organizations, civic institutions and donors.

Learn

We host workshops designed to address knowledge gaps identified by our community partners across a range of topics from marketing and risk assessment to wellness. In addition, we curate information about resource and event opportunities that would specifically benefit our community partners.

Coach

We work closely with a number of grassroots leaders to increase personal and professional capacity and strengthen access to existing resources and opportunities.

Support

Field and capacity building requires a boots on the ground understanding of opportunities and challenges. We regularly visit and provide onsite support to our community partners as volunteers to learn about their work, develop relationships and simply help out!

Storytelling

Our story is not just about Strides for Peace, but the collective efforts of our all partners and friends. We believe many of these stories get lost in the news and academic research and to the general public, so we produce media assets and events to provide new and different paths to understanding. Current projects include the Choose Hope and Why I Run mini film series, Interactive Community Map, arts partnerships (Civic Orchestra, Crosses for Losses), and panel discussions.

Advocacy

Strides believes an understanding of our problems and their attending solutions must include the strategic insights gained from people most impacted and those with boots on the ground, responsible for street level implementation. We work to ensure the voices, insights and experiences of our partners are included in stakeholder, decision-making and public conversations.

Bridge Building

Across neighborhoods, organizations, people and sectors we know we are better together. Whether through our Race Against Gun Violence, Corporate Social Responsibility, Choose Hope panels or Membership programming, special events or individual introductions, we are dedicated to being the connectors that lead to increased understanding and engagement.

Strides for Peace is an Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity / Disabled / Veterans Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or other protected classes under the law.