

Request for Proposals:

Engagement with Chicago-Region Environmental Group Executive Directors on Combating Racial Injustice

Background. A group of Chicago-area environmental nonprofit group Executive Directors have been meeting regularly for many years together to strategize and coordinate. Since late March 2020, these environmental group leaders have been meeting to collectively grapple with the challenges created by COVID-19, and are now turning additional attention to the racially-based injustices in our society that surfaced most recently in the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. The Executive Directors (most of whom are white) are seeking to identify and engage an expert facilitator to train and educate group members, and help to identify important next steps in working together to advance the cause of racial justice.

This is a coalition of environmental and conservation organizations that are varied in sizes, missions and specific goals, and are committed to combating racial injustice within the environmental movement and in the community as whole.

Many of the Executive Directors are already initiating diversity, equity and inclusion efforts within their own individual organizations. This engagement is not meant to supplant that existing work. Rather, the Executive Directors see additional value in participating in a joint activity, together across organizations.

Participating organizations include: Active Transportation Alliance, Alliance for the Great Lakes, Calumet Collaborative, Center for Neighborhood Technology, Chicago Audubon Society, The Conservation Foundation, Current, Delta Institute, Earthjustice, Elevate Energy, Environmental Law and Policy Center, Faith in Place, Friends of the Chicago River, Friends of the Forest Preserves, High Speed Rail Alliance, Illinois Environmental Council, Metropolitan Planning Council, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, Nuclear Energy Information Service, Openlands, Respiratory Health Association, Shared Use Mobility Center, Sierra Club Illinois Chapter, and The Wetlands Initiative, and more groups may join as well.

The Opportunity. The group seeks proposals from expert facilitators and strategists to support our work to become more effective allies in combating racial injustice. In particular, we are looking for this facilitator to:

- Create a safe space for shared learning among this group of environmental group Executive Directors.
- Provide a structured learning experience and new frameworks and resources for continued education, to meet these individual leaders where they are, and to move them farther down a path of combating racial injustice.

- Propose a scope of work for a second phase of involvement with the Executive Directors.
- Help identify concrete next steps for us to work together on actions to combat racial injustice in our community.

Budget. \$20,000 ceiling for initial engagement, with potential for extension / expansion. Additional work following this initial engagement is also possible.

Timeframe.

July 8: RFP released

July 29: responses due

August 19: consultant selected

September 7 (approximate): contract begins

Request. If you would like to be considered for this opportunity please send the following to Bob Dean at bobdean@cnt.org by 5 pm on July 29:

- CV / bio
- Proposal discussing your approach to the engagement: approach and methods, budget, timeframe, supporting materials, and anticipated outcomes
- 2-3 examples of relevant client engagements and results