

Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute

Representatives of low-income communities and communities of color are often absent from regional decision-making bodies such as planning commissions, parks boards and other appointed governmental bodies. Without representatives from those communities at the table, the needs of these communities are often not discussed or considered. Leaders from low-income communities and communities of color are desperately needed to make decisions that reflect the needs of these marginalized communities, and insure a future of health and wellbeing, but leaders often lack information and resources to help them effectively participate in this important process.

Developing the leadership capacity in the diverse and historically underrepresented communities in the Sacramento area is a key focus of CORE, and has brought CORE into a partnership with Urban Habitat, a Bay Area non-profit organization. Urban Habitat's Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute (BCLI) identifies, trains, places, and supports low-income people and people of color for priority boards and commissions seats in the San Francisco Bay Area. Priority seats are those that influence equity in terms of transportation, land use, housing, jobs, and the environment. This "seats first" model is the first of its kind in the nation.

Program Goals

Through the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, CORE will help increase the diversity of boards and commissions in the Sacramento area by creating a pool of well-qualified and prepared applicants from communities of color and low-income communities.

Training Approach

In a program informed by Urban Habitat's successful BCLI, CORE will develop leaders who are knowledgeable about equity issues, are prepared with technical and political knowledge, and are able to make decisions to advance health and equity in the Sacramento region. More specifically, this program will train community members from low-income communities, communities of color to develop the skills and knowledge to effectively and knowledgeably advocate for regional equity as members of boards and commissions in the Sacramento region.

Training provided through BCLI will focus on preparing individuals to serve their communities as members of the prioritized boards and commissions, identified by CORE as having the potential to effect positive change for low-income communities and communities of color.

Training Commitment

The BCLI training program will begin in August 2011 and run through December. The cohort will convene once in January 2012 prior to a public graduation ceremony. Training will include traditional lectures, open sessions, mixers, observations, brief assignments, and one-on-one meetings. The program will include 80 hours of training, spread over 5 months.

Nomination Process

For the inaugural Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, CORE is seeking 10 participants who would like to help increase the diversity of boards and commissions in the region, and to serve their

communities in this public role. Nominations will be accepted from organizations for individuals who have demonstrated leadership and potential for success in this role. Individuals nominated may be on an organization’s staff, serving in a volunteer capacity or otherwise known to the organization through a campaign or program. Individuals may be seeking a board or commission appointment, newly appointed to a priority seat on a board or commission, or interested in seeking a priority seat once the program concludes. Nominees will be interviewed, and a selection committee of CORE staff and member organizations will select the final cohort.

Mentoring and Alumni Network

At the close of the training program, graduates will be connected to ongoing mentoring and technical assistance to help them successfully advocate for positive change as members of boards and commissions in the region. A network of professionals with technical expertise will provide consultation on an as-needed basis to graduates who have matters coming before them on which they need subject-matter guidance. In addition, CORE staff will connect with graduates on an ongoing basis to mentor and track progress of graduates, and support their work.

Timeline

APRIL 2011	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN. 2012	
Open House April 7										
Nominations Accepted April 1 to May 15										
		Interview Nominees								
			Class Selected							
				BCLI Program						
									BCLI Graduation	

Want to Know More?

For more information on the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, contact Kendra Bridges at kendra@sachousingalliance.org or (916) 455-4900.

About CORE and SHA

CORE is a project of the Sacramento Housing Alliance (SHA), a 501(c)3 nonprofit, membership based organization focused on promoting affordable housing, ending homelessness and promoting equitable land use planning. CORE was founded in 2007 and advocates for regional development that is equitable, sustainable and promotes public health for lower income people and communities of color in the greater Sacramento Region. For more information, visit www.equitycoalition.org and www.sachousingalliance.org.