



Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement Fellow Request for Application (RFA)

Purpose: First Five Nebraska (FFN) is seeking a community-based partner to collaborate on a Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement Fellow to enhance and strengthen Black family voice and engagement and to prioritize racial equity in developing systems of services and supports for Nebraska’s prenatal-to-age-3 families.

Background: First Five Nebraska helps shape the public conversation about early childhood to give more Nebraska children a great start and prosperous future. We work closely with elected officials, business and industry leaders, educators and community stakeholders to advance informed, fiscally responsible early childhood policies and solutions. Together, we’re making Nebraska an ideal place to raise a family, advance a career, grow a business and build stronger, more prosperous communities.

This opportunity is funded by a Pritzker Children’s Initiative (PCI) Prenatal-to-Age-3 (PN-3) grant focused on significantly improving, through policy change, the healthy development and school readiness of Nebraska children from the prenatal period to age 3. See supplemental documents for more information.

Goal: The immediate goal of the Fellow is to help strengthen Black family voice and engagement and prioritize racial equity in addressing policy deficiencies within the PN-3 system. This opportunity will lay the foundation to achieve a long-term goal of shifting the way systems change is operationalized and how Black families, and the stakeholders serving them, are sought out and supported as co-creators and leaders at every table where decisions that impact them are made.

Outcome: Through FFN’s support and the community partner’s efforts and established relationships, the Fellow will engage Black families and stakeholders with similar lived experiences to develop and implement strategies that address racial equity at the program and systems levels. Current data show a lack of intentional focus on specific racial groups and communities. The Fellow will intentionally partner with Black families and stakeholders to assure equitable opportunities and participation in services that address birth outcomes.

The Fellow will support stakeholders in understanding who is, and who does or does not benefit from current policies and programs. Using that information as a foundation, the Fellow will partner with Black families, and the stakeholders serving them, to co-develop equitable strategies and policies that specifically target those who have been most marginalized. The Fellow will support stakeholders in co-designing solutions to achieve equitable outcomes within the PN-3 Plan and assure authentic representation and participation in policymaking and planning processes.

Responsibilities: The Fellow will be embedded within FFN’s Strategic Partnerships team and incorporated into the PCI Core Team. Because we recognize the lack of authentic representation and participation of Black families and stakeholders in informing decisions and the direction of our work, the Fellow will work with community members and organizations across the state who have connections to Black families, and the stakeholders serving them.

Specifically, the Fellow will conduct outreach, develop, and secure partnerships, and collaborate with informal and formal leaders within Nebraska Black communities. The Fellow also will work with partners to engage Black

families, and the stakeholders serving them, in co-designing strategies to remove barriers that result in maternal disparities. The Fellow will assure adequate representation and support of Black families and stakeholders, including stipends if needed, in current and future initiatives and workgroups addressing family engagement and race equity in Nebraska.

Commitment: The organizational partner will commit to sponsoring FFN's Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement Fellow, as described in this RFA, for a period not to exceed one (1) year. FFN is actively pursuing funding to extend this estimated timeframe. The Fellow will be expected to commit to approximately twenty (20) hours per week. These hours will include participating in a one-hour weekly meeting with FFN staff and in existing and future initiatives/workgroup meetings addressing family engagement and race equity in Nebraska, in addition to the outreach and stakeholder support described in this RFA.

Budget: Submitted applications should include a budget component that outlines the project in full. The Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement Fellow will not be considered an employee of First Five Nebraska, so budget submissions made by the community partner should consider all aspects of the project, including employee's wage compensation, travel, potential supply consumables and stipends for stakeholders. Approved expenses incurred will be reimbursed to the community partner, per terms of the negotiated contract.

Application Submission: If your organization would like to designate a staff member to work 20 hours per week as the Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement Fellow, please provide the following information:

1. Nature of the sponsoring organization/community partner including mission, vision and values, and Federal Tax I.D. or Employer Identification Number
2. History of working in under-represented communities, especially Black communities
3. How the sponsoring organization/community partner supports families through services for children prenatal-to-3-years-old
4. Description of employee identified for the Fellow: title and qualifications
5. Statement of Commitment to the project, specifying the responsibilities as outlined in this RFA
6. Amount needed (budget) necessary to sponsor the Fellow's work

Submission Deadline: November 15, 2021, 5 p.m. CST

Timeline: It is anticipated the Fellow will be committed approximately January 3, 2022, to December 30, 2022.

Applications may be submitted by email to: Amanda Felton at afelton@firstfivenebraska.org

Questions may be submitted to: Amy Bornemeier at abornemeier@firstfivenebraska.org