**NEIL AND LOUISE TILLOTSON FUND**

**2016 Community Practitioners Network**

Program Overview

The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund’s Community Practitioners Network (CPN2) is a multi-year leadership program designed to advance the interests of the region by recognizing and investing in local talent that, with cultivation and support, have the potential to be world-class community leaders. Successful program fellows will:

* Embrace the belief that the region is experiencing success at cultivating positive, healthy communities, the region possesses tremendous assets and promise and they are committed to the realization of that promise;
* Have a keen appreciation for the inherent value of collaboration in accomplishing outcomes important to the region;
* Demonstrate the ability to, and support others in, sharing leadership to get things done.

In 2013, the inaugural class of CPN was launched. During this 18-month program, as demonstrated through independent evaluation of the program, the following objectives were accomplished:

* Built leadership knowledge and strengthened skill sets among community and economic development professionals;
* Cultivated a leadership network with shared goals and plans to achieve them;
* Developed a dynamic and effective learning environment focused on best practices.

In 2016, the CPN2 leadership cohort will consist of a diverse group of 15 emerging and seasoned leaders from Coös County, New Hampshire and all surrounding communities in Vermont and Maine. Participants will engage in a mix of face-to-face and virtual meetings throughout the program. The first year is devoted to building participants’ leadership awareness and skills, and the second year is focused on strengthening the regional network and implementation of new abilities and understandings. The second cohort participants will be matched with selected community mentors and build connections with first cohort alumni.

CPN2 is offered to participants at no cost. All accommodations for program sessions are paid in full. Individuals are expected to cover travel costs and personal incidentals, however, limited participant stipends are available. Please contact Jean Clarke at jc@nhcf.org for more information.

Testimonials

“CPN gave me tools to be a more effective facilitator in community gatherings and as mentor for emerging leaders.” Brendan Prusik, Coös County Forester, UNH Cooperative Extension.

"The relationship building with like-minded individuals was truly the highlight of our cohort."

Jim Cochran, Director, Enriched Learning Center.

"I joined CPN expecting to expand my network beyond my traditional sector and to enhance my leadership skills. I came away with so much more. From a deeper understanding of myself as a leader and coming to fully recognize my commitment to being a placemaker, my CPN experience was a boost personally and professionally." Lori Langlois, Executive Director, North Country Education Services

CPN not only connected me with an extraordinary group of people (including the facilitators), but it truly helped me develop skills for implementing change in all levels of my work. While the CPN curriculum ended over three years ago, I don’t feel like it ended at all—I feel like our community of practice is still going strong. I absolutely LOVED CPN, it helped me see a different way of living and being and working.  Sally Manikian, Shelburne, NH

Please contact Jean Clarke at jc@nhcf.org for more information and testimonials.

Initial Calendar

This two-year program will begin in October 2016 and conclude in June 2018. The cohort will take the 2017 summer off between sessions. Once selected, program fellows will meet roughly every other month for single or multi-day sessions. In addition, there may be occasional conference and coaching calls as well as assigned readings, webinars and a possible retreat to enhance learning in year two. Year one dates will fall in: October and November 2016; January, March, May and September 2017. Calendar dates will be finalized by July 2016.

Application Procedure and Deadline

All application materials must be completed and submitted to Jean Clarke by email at jc@nhcf.org by Monday, July 18, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Please make sure all supporting materials are submitted with each completed application. Applicants will be notified of their selection status by Monday, August 1, 2016.



**Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund**

**2016 Community Practitioners Network Application**

Name: First name Last Name

Your Primary Role in the Community: Field of interest, employer, volunteer affiliation….

Employer/Home/Organization Address: Mailing Address, City/Town, State, Zip Code

Role/Title/Position: Click here to enter text

Preferred Telephone #: Mobile, home or business including area code

Preferred Email: Mobile, home or business including area code

Preferred mailing address (please indicate [ ]  home or [ ]  work):

 Street, City/Town, State, Zip Code

*The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund’s Community Practitioners Network2 is intended to represent the diverse nature of our communities. To this end, the following questions ask about your work, age, and residence.*

Which sector do you work in: [ ]  Public sector [ ] Business/for-profit sector [ ] Nonprofit Sector

Age: [ ] 20 – 30 years [ ] 31 – 40 years [ ] 41 – 50 years [ ] 51+ years

Where do you live? Town/City and State/Province

Please list other leadership/professional development program(s) in which you have participated:

* Click here to enter text.
* Click here to enter text.
* Click here to enter text.

**Personal Reflections:** *(Please attach with your application. Limit 300 words per question).*

1. *Describe a specific community or economic development issue facing northern New Hampshire, Vermont, or Maine where you see potential for positive impact and/or how you would like to be involved. What leverage would participation in this fellowship provide to help you realize this goal?*
2. *The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund’s Community Practitioners Network2 is committed to building network and individual leadership capacity among residents who are actively engaged in their communities. What unique strengths and attributes would you bring to the group learning experience? Upon reflection, what areas of personal growth and development would you like to improve on?*
3. *Describe an experience where you have demonstrated initiative and leadership that was not in a typical leadership role. What leadership roles have you played including opportunities within your own family, organization, or community?*

**Additional Materials: (***Please complete this application with the following attachments)*

* Current resume
* Two letters of reference, at least one personal. The references should clearly address:
1. Description of the relationship to the applicant.
2. Impact this program will have on the applicant’s current work/volunteerism.
3. How this particular investment in the applicant will increase their capacity for regional work and impact.

**Program Details:**

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Please make sure all supporting materials are submitted with each completed application. References can be emailed directly to Jean Clarke, however, applicant is responsible for confirming receipt of reference letters by application deadline of Monday, July 18, 2016.

**All application materials should be submitted to Jean Clarke by email** **jc@nhcf.org** **by Monday, July 18 at 5:00 p.m.**