



## **SEARCH FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

WEST HARTFORD, CT

### **Position Profile**

#### **THE OPPORTUNITY**

Aurora is seeking a full time proven and innovative leader to champion expanded opportunities for women and girls in Greater Hartford. The individual will lead efforts to focus the regions public and private sectors around the need to educate and support initiatives that will enable women and girls to be leaders and active participants in their communities while developing and leading projects to bring greater understanding to the value of strong women and girls and the impact to Connecticut's communities. The executive director will serve as Aurora's chief spokesperson, ensure a high level of visibility and impact throughout the community, actively build and participate in collaborations, develop and execute strategic fundraising strategies and donor cultivation plans.

**The new executive director will be a dynamic, strategic and passionate leader, capacity builder and fundraiser, who will:**

- Engage community stakeholders, donors, volunteers, staff and board to raise visibility, develop collaborations, and attract resources for financial sustainability, growth and impact;
- Raise Aurora's profile by serving as the face of Aurora. Be the primary spokesperson, passionate about issues for women and girls, knowledgeable and articulate about the gender lens to shape public and private sector thinking;
- Provide leadership to strengthen Aurora's brand, impact and fundraising through a developed communications program;
- Direct outreach approaches to align and build engagement with audiences through clear messaging, valuable data, motivating stories and compelling calls to action;

**The new executive director will focus on these strategic opportunities and priorities:**

- Successfully raise funds and secure grants for financial sustainability; ensure Aurora's ability to operate efficiently and effectively and achieve short and long term goals.

- Lead Aurora's board of directors in the development of a strategic plan, including but not limited to capacity building and collaboration.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive plan to increase the impact and visibility of the 2014 Aurora Report throughout the community to include the development of a newly updated Aurora Report.
- Enhance Aurora's place as a visible, high impact partner in efforts to improve college completion rates for women in greater Hartford.
- Actively engage Aurora's board of directors to move the organization forward.
- Maintain a positive organizational culture that attracts, develops and retains highly qualified volunteers, board members and a small part-time staff.

## **THE IDEAL CANDIDATE**

The successful candidate will be a highly motivated seasoned leader, committed to Aurora's mission, who possesses the following attributes:

- Ten or more years of professional experience. Preference for an individual who can articulate current challenges and opportunities facing women and girls and has a passion for leading change;
- Successful track record of attracting financial and other resources to a cause;
- Entrepreneurial spirit with an ability to get things done with limited resources;
- Experience providing leadership and support to a working board of directors with multiple committees;
- Commitment to an inclusive organizational culture and demonstrated ability to building diverse constituencies and coalitions;
- Ability to inspire and motivate others to develop a shared vision, initiate change and take action;
- Superior public speaking and written communications skills with a preference for a savvy communicator skilled in the social media platform and digital media relations;
- Successful leadership and hands-on management experience in a busy environment; strong decision-making skills, and accountability for results;
- Ability to build and maintain relationships with internal and external audiences and stakeholders;
- Minimum of Bachelor's degree, with relevant experience.

## **WHO WE ARE**

### **Mission:**

The mission of the Aurora Foundation is to be a catalyst for positive change in the lives of women and girls in Greater Hartford.

### **We strive to:**

- Conduct research and convene the community around issues facing females in our region to promote understanding, collaboration and effective solutions.
- Educate and engage women and men in the power of philanthropy to improve social and economic outcomes for women and girls, their families and communities.
- Implement strategies, including targeted grant making, that address key issues and significantly impact women and girls in Greater Hartford.

### **Background:**

Established in 2000, Aurora is the only fund in Greater Hartford and the only free-standing foundation in Connecticut focused exclusively on the needs and opportunities of women and girls. Aurora has grown to hold assets of approximately \$500,000 and has an operating budget of \$325,000. With the 2016 awards, the Foundation has reached nearly \$500,000 in grants, an important milestone for a young local foundation.

Aware that our grant making is important but not sufficient, we endeavor to increase the awareness of the power of philanthropy in our region to positively impact women and girls. Aurora encourages men and women to engage in philanthropic efforts that benefit females in their communities. The, **Aurora Report**, launched in 2014, was our first initiative to assess the status of women and girls in Hartford County and to provide data to other organizations seeking to serve women and girls. The executive summary and selected snapshots are available online, <http://aurorafoundation.org/aurora-reports.html>.

Aurora is seeking a new leader to champion the organization as it solidifies its place as a thought leader, convener, fundraiser, grant maker and voice for women and girls in the region.

The Aurora Foundation was formed to serve as a catalyst for change in the lives of women and girls in Greater Hartford, with the intended effect of unlocking the potential of their families and surrounding communities.

- [We conduct research](#) and convene the community to promote understanding of gender issues, and to foster collaboration for effective solutions.

- We [educate](#) and [engage](#) men and women in the power of philanthropy to improve social and economic outcomes for women and girls, along with their families and communities.
- We implement strategies — [including targeted grant making](#) — that take aim at obstacles to empower women and girls in Greater Hartford.

## **APPLICATION INFORMATION**

This is a full time position with responsibility for two part-time staff for organizational support. Some evening and weekend hours are necessary. Aurora offers a flexible work environment and minimal travel is expected. Salary is commensurate with experience.

**We welcome your submission which should be sent to the attention of Maggie Willard, Interim Executive Director at, [maggie@aurorafoundation.org](mailto:maggie@aurorafoundation.org).** Please provide a cover letter and resume. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

*The Aurora Women and Girl's Foundation provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, age, marital status, disability, genetics or any other status protected by state or federal law. We are an equal opportunity employer and welcome all to apply, including persons with disabilities and veterans.*