



STATE INNOVATION EXCHANGE
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Request for Proposals Consultant: Building an equity-centered, rural narrative

About the State Innovation Exchange (SiX)

We are a national resource and strategy center that collaborates with state legislators to improve people's lives through transformative public policy. SiX works in close coordination with legislators, advocacy groups, think tanks, and activists to provide the tools and information legislators need to be successful. We provide state legislators with policy support, communication products, research, training, convenings, technical assistance and strategic advice. We are committed to building power at the state level by providing lasting and personalized support for state legislators.

SiX's Democracy Program champions legislators to enact pro-democracy policy that fosters equitable participation, representation and outcomes. The Agriculture & Food Systems program emboldens state legislators and partners to cultivate healthy rural communities and a more equitable, accessible, ecologically responsible food and farm system through transformative public policy. Each program has a cohort of champions who enjoy a set of valuable services provided by expert communications, research and policy teams.

Position Summary

We are seeking a senior consultant to support the development of an equity-centered, values-based rural narrative to support state legislators.

This consultant will support state legislators in the development and advancement of a race-forward, rural narrative and policy agenda to position equity-focused, state legislators as trusted messengers and champions of rural communities, demonstrated by their policy-making and public-facing efforts.

The ideal candidate will be committed to racial equity and progressive values while being passionate about rural community members' access to voting and elections, local food, and family farmers. This person should have a knowledge base of both democracy and the food and agriculture policy and the partnership landscape and, most importantly, have significant experience working in rural areas. This individual should be comfortable interacting with legislators, partners and SiX staff virtually.

Objectives to be pursued in coordination with the SiX Team:

Analysis & Program Development

- Conduct a landscape assessment of relevant existing resources for rural legislators (such as messaging, polling, or other research);
- Identify gaps that could be filled by SiX;
- Develop a 6-month plan to support state legislators in the development and advancement of a race-forward, rural narrative and policy priorities to position equity-focused, state legislators as trusted messengers and champions of rural communities;
- Identify priority states;
- Organize a series of message briefings, in-state and cross-state strategy sessions, briefings, and training for rural legislators;
- Produce a product identifying a values-based narrative(s) for use by legislators with evidence that it resonates with rural communities and rural legislators.

Selection and Evaluation Criteria

- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent work experience;
- Lived experience in working with, in, or for rural communities;
- Experience working in policy, campaigns, and/or advocacy in the democracy and/or the food, agriculture and environmental space, and an understanding of state legislatures and legislators;
- Commitment to race equity and an understanding of how democracy and food policy must center race equity;
- Excellent organizational skills with the ability to work independently to drive projects to completion;
- Ability to work quickly under pressure and juggle several projects at once;
- Commitment to SiX's organizational values

Priority Application Deadline: Deadline is May 22, 2021, but please submit earlier if possible. *Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.*

Pay: \$4,000 per month for up to 5 months, roughly 20 hours per week.

How to Apply

Interested consultants should submit the following materials to kendra@stateinnovation.org and carmen@stateinnovation.org with *Rural Narrative Consultant* in the subject line.

- A CV detailing relevant work experience;
- A cover letter detailing why you are interested in this role and why you are a strong fit to achieve these project objectives;
- At least two references relevant to the scope of work.

State Innovation Exchange is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage people of color, Indigenous people, women, LGBTQ folks, and immigrants to apply for open positions. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, age, marital, and/or veteran status or any other characteristic or activity protected by federal, state, or local law.