

**Rise Together Innovation Center  
Executive Director  
Job Description**

**BACKGROUND**

- The Rise Together Innovation Center is a dedicated space to coordinate long- and short-term efforts to mitigate poverty and improve economic mobility, family stability, and equitable access to opportunity across Franklin County.
- The Innovation Center is responsible for convening community partners, aligning systems, and implementing the Rise Together Blueprint to Reduce Poverty in Franklin County, in addition to vetting other big ideas.
- Over the next 12-18 months, the Innovation Center will focus on 3 of the 13 goals and 1 big idea.
  - Goal #1 (Jobs): Increasing employers' engagement in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty – through the creation of living wage and high-paying jobs for residents.
  - Goal #3 (Jobs): Increasing access to relevant training for credentials that meet local demand with employer commitments to hire and promote.
  - Goal#11 (Youth): Increasing the number of students at or near the poverty level experiencing academic success.
  - Big Idea: Research, evaluate and vet an expanded childcare subsidy program and public pre-K for all Franklin County children
- The Franklin County Board of Commissioners are committed to devoting appropriate resources for the success of the Innovation Center. Oversight for the Innovation Center will come from a newly created Leadership Council consisting of 21 members. The Council will serve approximately 12 to 18 months to build the appropriate governance structure to support the strategy of the Blueprint.

**ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW**

The Rise Together Innovation Center is a standalone entity responsible for carrying out the day-to-day work of convening partners and aligning systems to implement The Franklin County Rise Together Blueprint, in addition to vetting other big ideas to disrupt poverty.

Reporting to the Innovation Center Board of Directors, the Executive Director will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for the Center's staff, programs, and execution of its mission. The Executive Director will initially develop an in-depth knowledge of the field, operations, and business plans with a commitment to being an effective anti-racist organization, actively pursuing racial equity and the eradication of structural racism as an explicit approach of its programming, partnerships, and big ideas.

**OVERVIEW OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Executive Director is the leader of the organization, tasked with establishing a vision for community impact that is achieved through the efforts of a diverse team of high-performing leaders, staff, and volunteers alike, and focused on making policies, programs, and practices more racially equitable. The Executive Director should have an entrepreneurial spirit as “Chief Mobilizer” and leverage the power of relationships and networks to work across private, public, and corporate sectors to improve conditions and reduce poverty throughout Franklin County.

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES/ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

### **Leadership & Management:**

- Play an active role in advising on the integration of racial equity concepts into all aspects of the Center’s community engagement and program strategy.
- Ensure ongoing local organizational excellence; rigorous program and Blueprint evaluation; and consistent quality of finance and administration, fundraising, communications, and systems.
- Recommend timelines and resources needed to achieve the strategic goals.
- Actively engage and energize Center board members, committees, partnering organizations, and funders.
- Develop, maintain, and support a strong board and advisory councils.
- Serve as ex-officio on each committee and workgroup.
- Seek and build board and advisory council involvement with strategic direction for both ongoing Blueprint efforts and vetting the big ideas of the Innovation Center.
- Lead, coach, develop, and retain Center’s high-performance management team.
- Ensure effective systems to track scaling progress, and regularly evaluate Blueprint components, to measure successes that can be effectively communicated to the board, advisory council, funders, and other constituents.

### **Fundraising & Communications:**

- Work with the board to develop long term financial plan.
- Secure and expand revenue through strategic partnerships.
- Deepen and refine all aspects of communications with municipalities—from web presence to external relations with the goal of creating a stronger brand for the Center.
- Use external presence and relationships to garner new financial opportunities.

### **Planning & New Business:**

- Design the implementation process for delivery of the Blueprint and complete the strategic business planning process for the Innovation Center.
- Begin to build partnerships in new municipalities, establishing relationships with the funders, and political and community leaders.
- Be an external local and national presence that publishes and communicates Blueprint results, with an emphasis on the successes of the public and private dollars and civic engagement.

## QUALIFICATIONS

The Executive Director will be thoroughly committed to the Center's mission. All candidates should have proven leadership, coaching, and relationship management experience.

Specific requirements include:

- Advanced degree, or the equivalent of work experience with at least ten (10) years of senior management experience, with a track record of effectively leading various stakeholder groups and staff.
- Ability to point to specific examples of having developed and operationalized strategies that have taken an organization to the next stage of growth.
- An action-oriented, entrepreneurial, adaptable, and innovative approach to business planning.
- Unwavering commitment to quality programs and data-driven program evaluation.
- Excellence in organizational management with the ability to coach staff, manage, and develop high-performance teams; set and achieve strategic objectives; and maintain a budget.
- Strong marketing, public relations, and fundraising experience with the ability to engage a wide range of stakeholders and cultures.
- Past success working with a Board of Directors, with the ability to cultivate relationships with existing board member.
- A persuasive and passionate communicator with strong written and verbal communication skills and excellent interpersonal and multidisciplinary project skills.
- Ability to work effectively in collaboration with diverse groups of people.
- Passion, idealism, integrity, positive attitude, mission-driven, and self-directed.

## CORE COMPETENCIES REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- **Mission-Focused:** Catalyze others' commitment to the mission to create real social change that leads to better lives and healthier communities. This drives their performance and professional motivations.
- **Outward Turning:** Understands the dynamics of local, regional, and national environments, and works on an agenda rooted in the community's perception of its needs and aspirations.
- **Business Acumen:** Possess a high-level of broad business and management skills and is effective at generating financial support for the organization.
- **Relationship-Oriented:** Understands that people come before process and is astute in cultivating and managing relationships toward a common goal.
- **Collaborator:** understands the roles and contributions of all sectors of the community and can mobilize resources (financial and human) through meaningful engagement.

- **Results-Driven:** Dedicated to shared and measurable goals for the common good; creating, resourcing, scaling, and leveraging strategies and innovations for significant investment and impact.
- **Brand Steward:** Steward of the brand and understands her/his role in growing and protecting the reputation and results of the greater network.
- **Visionary:** Confronts the complex realities of the environment and simultaneously maintains faith in a different and better future, providing purpose, direction, and motivation.
- **Team-Builder:** First ensures that the right people are in the right roles at the right times; fostering commitment, trust, and collaboration among multi-cultural leaders and stakeholders.
- **Network-Oriented:** Values the power of networks and strives to leverage the breadth of community presence, relationships, and strategy.