



Position Announcement

625 Jamaica Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11208-1203

T 718 647 2800
F 718 647 2805
info@cypresshills.org

cypresshills.org

Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC) is a community-based not-for-profit community development corporation and settlement house that offers comprehensive housing preservation, youth and family services, career and education, college success, and organizing programs. With community residents leading the way, the mission of Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation is to build a strong, sustainable Cypress Hills/East New York, where youth and adults achieve educational and economic success, secure healthy and affordable housing and develop leadership skills to transform their lives and community. We have established displacement prevention as an agency-wide priority.

Through a participatory planning and community organizing process focused on the re-zoning of parts of East New York, residents established priorities for the future growth of their neighborhood, including deeply affordable rental housing, affordable homeownership, preservation and growth of small businesses, and strong displacement prevention policies. The Community Organizer will play a critical role in preventing the displacement of low and moderate income residents, small businesses and manufacturers in the neighborhood by bringing together, coordinating and expanding community organizing, housing development and preservation, small business supports and manufacturing preservation work of CHLDC. The Community Organizer will support the grassroots *Coalition for Community Advancement: Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills* to engage neighborhood residents, houses of worship and community groups in campaigns to influence land use, housing and economic projects and policies in and impacting East New York. CHLDC seeks to eliminate discriminatory land use and real estate practices, slow down real estate speculation, home flipping, harassment of tenants and low/moderate income homeowners and win community benefits from developers. The Community Organizer will collaborate with CHLDC programs to monitor displacement threats.

This position is a full time, 35 hour per week, non-exempt position.

Position: Community Organizer – Displacement Prevention

Principal Duties:

- Lead organizational-wide effort to slow/stop the displacement of low and moderate income residents, small businesses and manufacturers in Cypress Hills/East New York.

- Bring together, coordinate, strengthen and expand the work of CHLDC in tenant services and organizing, foreclosure prevention, homeownership preservation, development/preservation of deeply and permanently affordable housing, small business supports, manufacturing preservation, policy/advocacy and community organizing work to prevent displacement.
- Conduct outreach to educate neighborhood residents and groups about the neighborhood rezoning, community development plans, and displacement prevention strategies.
- Provide community organizing supports and technical assistance to the Coalition for Community Advancement: Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills, a 4-year old coalition working on a range of displacement prevention policies at the City and State level: build a broader base of members, support the leadership of steering committee members, run multiple campaigns, and help leaders in negotiating Community Benefits Agreements and other policies that require local hire, use of local suppliers and subcontractors and set asides for community facilities and local small businesses;
- Connect the Coalition to city- and state-wide campaigns to preserve affordable rental housing and affordable homeownership.
- Work with CHLDC partners to make strategic use of available early warning systems (maps and data) to prioritize outreach, identify trends, and engage community members in displacement-prevention strategies.
- Track real estate transactions and bulk sales of property in the community by speculators, notify enforcement agencies of any illegal/questionable practices and coordinate with tenant counselor to stop harassment and prevent evictions.
- Participate as the CHLDC representative and liaison regarding displacement prevention work between CHLDC and citywide advocacy groups, such as Association for Neighborhood Housing Development.
- Supervise college or graduate interns
- Provide monthly narratives and statistical reports on work accomplished.
- Report to Deputy Director for Community Development, Housing & Organizing.

Position Requirements:

- Have Bachelors Degree in relevant field
- Have three-five years experience in community organizing, preferably in housing organizing
- Demonstrate commitment to leadership development, community building, and community organizing as strategies for social change
- Be skilled in facilitating meetings and leading workshops
- Be fluent in Spanish
- Be able to work in a fast-paced environment
- Be detail-oriented
- Have excellent communication and interpersonal skills

- Be willing to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends

Compensation: \$50,000-\$55,000, depending on experience.

To Apply: Email resume and cover letter to Michelle Neugebauer, Executive Director at: michellen@cypresshills.org.

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- **EOE Minorities/Women/Disabled/Veteran**