



Raise-Op Housing Cooperative Seeks a Cooperative Membership Organizer

About the Raise-Op:

Founded in 2008, The Raise-Op Housing Cooperative is a 501c3 organization that develops and supports cooperatively owned and democratically controlled, majority low-income urban housing in Lewiston, Maine. We believe that housing is a human right, and should be controlled by the community it serves. We are dedicated to supporting members with a diverse range of needs.

The Raise-Op currently owns and operates three multi-family buildings in the downtown neighborhoods of Lewiston. They are occupied by our 15 members and their families; a community of about 50 people. We are currently implementing a strategic plan to add at least 15 new construction residential units designed by our members by year end 2022. Our goal is to increase the amount of safe and affordable, long-term, community-controlled affordable housing via empowered and collective ownership.



About the Position:

The Raise-Op Housing Cooperative is seeking candidates to fulfill the role of Cooperative Membership Organizer (CMO) for a minimum of 2 years, beginning Spring 2021. The Raise-Op seeks a candidate who is excited to build relationships with a diverse and growing group of residents in Downtown Lewiston. The primary responsibility of this position is to empower current and future Members by fostering new and continuing relationships among Members, and by supporting Members to build skills and manage their own buildings efficiently.

The CMO will maintain regular contact with members, create systems for increased member engagement, and support and participate in committee work for these purposes.

Additional responsibilities of this position include: working with partner organizations and members of the general public to grow support for cooperative housing, supporting intersecting housing justice efforts in the community, building maintenance support, coordinating closely with our the Cooperative Development Organizer (CDO), and filling in development coordination duties as needed in their absence. The CMO reports to the Board of Directors, and will have regular team meetings with the CDO and Executive board members. Some evenings and weekends will be required.

We believe in a diverse workforce and value lived experience. We highly encourage Black, Brown, Disabled, Immigrant, LGBTQIA+, Women, Poor, and Working Class identified candidates to apply.



CORE RESPONSIBILITIES: MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZING

Raise-Op seeks an Organizer to help build and maintain a strong community-based organization. The Cooperative Membership Organizer is hired by and reports to the Board of Directors. Supported by other staff, the CMO will be the primary staff member responsible for:

Training & Outreach

- Working intensively with residents of the co-op to establish, implement, and improve collective self-management.
- Refine and deliver training curriculum to existing and new co-operative membership
- Designing and conducting workshops on Raise-Op's work within the context of a movement for housing justice
- Regular communication with Co-op
- Members, including 1:1 check-ins

Events

- Annual membership meeting
- Community events
- Co-op tours

Asset Management

- Coordinate between residents, resident maintenance committees, and maintenance and repair professionals to address short and long-term physical needs of our homes



COLLECTIVE WORK

Raise-Op seeks an individual who is interested in helping to shape the organization as an equal co-partner and able to maintain a work plan that includes organizational-wide operations and overlapping, cooperative spheres of work. We seek an individual who will bring skills, enthusiasm, and leadership to some of the following essential areas:

Movement building

- Maintaining relationships with values-aligned groups, organizations, and coalitions
- Supporting Raise-Op staff, board, residents, and members in engaging in a movement for housing justice and community control of land and housing

Fundraising

- Building relationships with existing and potential new funders
- Writing, submitting, and tracking grants

Communications

- Website and Social Media maintenance
- Newsletters & member communications
- Press relationships (responding to inquiries + connecting residents and members)

Policy

- Participate in joint efforts to change state and local policies to better support CHDOs and cooperatives

Administrative

- Facilitation (staff meetings, membership meetings, and retreats)
- Keeping detailed records of meetings, decisions, schedules, items for action
- Organizational visioning and planning (core values, structure, mission)
- Systems management and improvement (phone, website, database, etc.)
- Basic accounting and budget management

The successful candidate will:

- Have prior community organizing and leadership development experience
- Have experience in meeting facilitation
- Possess the ability to work closely within a small team and incorporate constructive feedback and training within their work flow.
- Be self-motivated and self-directed
- Possess strong interpersonal skills and the ability to listen with empathy
- Work well with people of different abilities, cultures, races, identities, and incomes
- Be able to speak, read, and write in English fluently
- Be able to perform light physical tasks (cleaning, moving items, using hand tools, climbing stairs)
- Have competency with technology and online platforms such as Zoom, Google Suite
- Demonstrate commitment to racial, social, and economic justice, and deep alignment with the Raise-Op's mission and cooperative values

Bonus:

- Cooperative development knowledge
- Has lived experience of Downtown Lewiston and its social complexities
- Speaks Somali, Mai Mai, French, Arabic, and/or Portuguese
- Some experience in building maintenance (carpentry, electrical, and/or plumbing)
- Demonstrated competencies in low-barrier and trauma informed services
- Experience in conflict resolution
- Assertive communication skills

Compensation: 36-40 hrs/wk negotiable upon hire, \$17.25/hr

Benefits: 20 Days PTO, 12 Paid Holidays, Paid Parental Leave, Healthcare Reimbursement (HC) up to \$250/mo. HC Reimbursements rollover each month, and expire at the end of each calendar year.

If you are excited about this job, tell us why in your cover letter. Many skills can be learned on the job or through training, but enthusiasm cannot be taught. In addition to training on the job, it is a goal of the Raise-Op to offer Professional Development Opportunities to our staff that enrich the experience of being an employee and support the cooperative in our mission.

Submit Cover Letter and Resume to Raiseop207@gmail.com

Expected start date is June 1, 2021. Applicants will receive consideration on a first received, rolling basis. An offer is expected to be made between May 1st and 15th. Covid-19 precautions are in effect; most communication will be completed through teleconference and email. Candidates invited for an interview will be asked to provide three references who can speak to character and skills.