



## **POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT: Climate Program Officer, Clean Energy**

**Location: Boston, MA**

### **About the Barr Foundation**

Founded in 1997, the Boston-based Barr Foundation is one of the largest private foundations in New England, with assets of more than \$1.6 billion and combined grantmaking to date of \$700 million. Barr focuses regionally, and selectively engages nationally, working in partnership with nonprofits, foundations, the public sector, and civic and business leaders to elevate the arts and culture for vibrant, vital, and engaged communities; advance solutions for climate change; and expand educational opportunity.

Our aim is to serve as both stewards and catalysts of human, natural, and cultural potential—nurturing and enhancing vital community assets while also cultivating and advancing the breakthrough ideas that will shape our collective future. We are guided by a set of core values that determine how we carry out our mission, including commitments to strive for excellence, act with humility, adopt a long-term perspective, and embrace risk. Across our programs, we embrace a common set of approaches, such as flexibility and nimbleness, sharing of knowledge and learning, openness and transparency, and active collaboration.

### **Barr's Climate Program**

Since its inception, the Barr Foundation has prioritized the environment as a principal area of funding, and in 2010 focused its efforts on the monumental problem of climate change. Barr made a five-year commitment to help Boston and Massachusetts accelerate efforts to reach emissions' reductions goals, emphasizing energy, transportation, and land use. Recognizing significant progress against these goals since 2010, the trustees believe the Foundation now has an opportunity to build upon these accomplishments over the next decade.

As the foundation looks to increase funding in this area, we have refined the strategies we pursued in our initial five-year commitment, and formalized the following three focus areas: clean energy, mobility, and a special initiative for climate preparedness. We believe that while climate change is a global challenge, cities and states have become vital agents of change, and by focusing on these three areas, we can play an important role in helping to catalyze and advance solutions.

## Program Officer Position

The Barr Foundation is seeking a program officer to work within the Climate Program's Clean Energy Focus Area. The goal of the clean energy focus area is to reduce the energy sector's emissions by building the path to a clean, efficient, and modern energy system. The strategies to achieve this goal are: 1) accelerating the expansion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Northeast, and 2) promoting sharing of effective clean energy practices, policies, and communication strategies across the U.S. and globally. This program officer will report to the Clean Energy Senior Program Officer (CESPO).

### Key Responsibilities

#### Planning and strategy

- Collaborate with the CESPO and climate team members in developing grantmaking strategies that will have a strong impact in areas important to the Foundation. Contribute to assessment and modifications of strategy in response to new knowledge, and serve as a thought partner with the Climate team.
- Maintain a wide breadth and depth of knowledge about the current trends, professional practices and developing policies pertinent to the program.

#### Grantmaking

- Assist the CESPO in managing grants within the Clean Energy focus area. Evaluate proposals, conduct site visits, monitor active grants, assess their progress, and respond to financial and programmatic reports.
- Under guidance of the CESPO, develop recommendations for funding to clearly identify proposal strengths, weaknesses and risks. Prepare materials to submit to the board of trustees.
- Respond to inquiries and proposals in the focus area. Review, assess and act on proposals, actively assisting in improving their quality. Review proposal budgets, staffing, workplans and anticipated project outcomes as related to proposal goals and institutional capability.
- Assist with the evaluation of grants or grant clusters in support of program strategy reviews, and collaborate with the communications team to disseminate learnings that contribute to the fields of mobility, urban planning, and philanthropy.

#### Foundation Support

- Develop and cultivate strong working relationships with grantees, outside advisors, experts in the field, public sector partners, and colleagues in philanthropy.
- Under guidance of the CESPO, commission papers and program-related reports that broadly contribute to the Foundation's understanding of new approaches, best practices, and issues in Clean Energy relevant to the program's interests.
- Organize meetings and convenings of grantees, field experts and foundation colleagues to share best practices, encourage collaboration, and explore strategies for collective impact.
- Learn and provide leadership in the Officer's professional field through speaking engagements, writing, contributing to the Barr blogs and use of social media.

## Qualifications

- Strong record of achievement with minimum of five years of relevant experience working in nonprofit, philanthropic, public, or private sector in fields related to the foundation's Clean Energy focus area.
- The ability to analyze complex systemic energy challenges and assist in the creation of solutions that respond comprehensively.
- Proven ability to define program objectives, evaluate progress, and independently manage projects through a complete lifecycle.
- Exceptional quantitative and qualitative analytical skills necessary for identifying investment opportunities, designing initiatives, and evaluating grant proposals.
- Experience in assessing nonprofits' health through analyzing financial statements, evaluating the feasibility and strategic value of proposed programs and activities, and assessing management, leadership, and organizational capacity.
- Experience building strong, positive, collaborative relationships with diverse constituencies. The ability to listen to new ideas, encourage open dialogue, and inspire people to work towards common goals.
- Experience working on public policy issues and strong familiarity of political processes, and an understanding of the role of the nonprofit and philanthropic communities in driving policy change. Knowledge of the culture, neighborhoods, institutions, and leadership of the region would be an asset.
- Excellent writing and presentation skills, particularly in communicating with diverse constituencies in a variety of settings.
- Independent initiative and a collegial spirit in sharing ideas and receiving feedback.
- Bachelor's degree required. Graduate degree in energy related fields, public policy or a closely related field is preferred.

## How to Apply

Please visit <http://bit.ly/1KSdxig> to apply for this position. Only applications submitted via this link will be considered. **The application deadline is March 1, 2016.**

All inquiries may be directed in confidence to: Denise Gillespie, Director of Human Resources, via email at: [barrjobs@barrfoundation.org](mailto:barrjobs@barrfoundation.org). No phone calls, please.

This position offers a competitive salary with excellent benefits.

**Please note that the Barr Foundation will provide an allowance for relocation costs for this position.**

*The Barr Foundation is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes a diverse pool of candidates in this search.*