

Position Announcement President and Chief Executive Officer

Smart Growth America (SGA) is seeking to hire a President and Chief Executive Officer.

About Smart Growth America

SGA was founded in 1999 as a broad national coalition of over 100 organizational members. SGA's mission is to achieve a vision of sustainable communities, in which the outcomes of growth and development are equitable, environmentally beneficial, economically robust, and strengthened by vigorous citizen engagement. To this end, the SGA staff and coalition work to help people and their communities achieve a better way to grow: one that protects natural areas and environmental health, revitalizes communities, increases affordable housing and transportation choices, and offers all Americans fair access to opportunities.

SGA uses coalition building, policy advocacy, communications, technical assistance, and research to achieve its goals. In recent years, SGA has led and supported national, state, and local implementation of innovative policies and practices, provided direct assistance to over 40 communities and many public officials, implemented groundbreaking research and communications efforts that have sparked national debates, and actively partnered with numerous influential leaders, including former governors, federal cabinet officials, sitting elected officials, and business leaders.

Some recent highlights include:

- Lead sponsorship of *Growing Cooler: The Academic Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change*,
- Authorship of *Choosing Our Community's Future: A Citizen's Guide to Getting the Most out of Development*,
- Extensive work in New Orleans since 2004 to help the city return its abandoned homes back to commerce,
- The formation and leadership of the Community Protection Coalition, which successfully opposed attacks on land use, environmental, and community development policies in ten states and two localities since 2006.

Our work is best exemplified by our signature initiatives, including:

- *The National Vacant Properties Campaign*, which has created a national network of leaders who are working to reclaim abandoned buildings and vacant lots to help revitalize their communities,
- *The Smart Growth Leadership Institute*, which is led by former Maryland Governor Parris Glendening and provides technical assistance to localities and public officials,
- *The Governor's Institute on Community Design*, which annually organizes four workshops for Governors and their cabinet members to inform them about smart growth policy innovations.

SGA's coalition includes organizations that work on a wide variety of issues, including housing, community development, poverty alleviation, environment, historic preservation, planning, architecture, health, transportation, and workforce development.

For more information about SGA and its coalition members, see the website at www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

Position Description, Candidate Requirements, and Application Procedures

The President and CEO of SGA is responsible for all executive functions of the organization, including working closely with the Board of Directors to update and implement the organization's strategic plan, recruiting and managing employees, grant-writing, fundraising, and financial management. SGA has an annual budget that exceeds \$2 million and has a dozen staff people, most of whom are based in Washington, DC (one is in Atlanta). It is a 501(c)(3) organization.

The President and CEO is the public face of the organization, the head of SGA's large coalition, and in many ways the leader of a national movement. Therefore, the ideal candidate should be able to convene, work closely with, and lead SGA's diverse member organizations, including its State and Regional Caucus. He or she should be a proven leader with executive experience and a track record for bringing together a wide variety of groups to aggressively achieve common goals. The ideal candidate should possess extensive knowledge and experience in the smart growth field, including land use planning, transportation policy, community development, affordable housing, and environmental protection. He or she should also have strong experience in issue advocacy, including creating and leading initiatives to drive policy change, implementing organizing efforts, utilizing communications technologies for advocacy, and skillfully maneuvering the policy-making process at all levels of government.

The ideal candidate should also be focused and disciplined, an excellent project manager, an outstanding communicator, and entrepreneurial in building alliances with funders, partner organizations, policy makers, business leaders, civic groups, reporters, and other key outreach targets. It is essential that he or she have solid fundraising, financial, and administrative management experience. The ideal candidate should also have a strong reputation for attracting, retaining, and motivating an outstanding staff.

Requirements and Compensation

Candidates must have at least 12 years of relevant experience, including at least 5 years of managerial experience. This position requires extensive domestic travel (roughly 35 percent). Compensation will be commensurate with qualifications and competitive with CEO positions in similar Washington, DC-based non-profit groups. Excellent benefits.

How to Apply

SGA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply. Qualified candidates should send a cover letter, résumé, writing sample, and at least three references by November 30, 2007 to Paula Offord, c/o SGA's President and CEO Search Committee at pofford@smartgrowthamerica.org. The SGA Board of Directors plans to fill this position by December 31, 2007.