**Chief of Party, Kenya Empowering Youth Project**

We are currently seeking qualified candidates for the position of: **Chief of Party, Kenya Empowering Youth Project to be based in Nairobi, Kenya**.

**Description**

Virginia Tech’s Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED) is currently recruiting for the position of Chief of Party (COP) for an anticipated USAID-funded project to empower Kenyan youth and to directly connect them with social and economic opportunities aligned to public and private sector investments. The activity is expected to increase the capacity and commitment of Kenyan actors to better engage and serve their youth, particularly adolescent girls and young women, at the county level.

The project will explore the following areas:

* Enhancing county-level youth-serving systems by strengthening and expanding youth networks and leveraging youth organizations.
* Advancing knowledge on and exploring new areas around research, data, and evidence on youth.
* Exploring county-level models to strengthen systems to better engage youth and connect them to social and economic opportunities.

The COP will provide overall project leadership to support a youth-led, youth-owned, and youth-managed approach within a systems perspective that increases the capacity and commitment of Kenyan actors to better engage and serve their youth. The project will focus on increasing and aligning partnerships among actors at the county level such as academic institutions, youth organizations, the private sector, the government, and the donor community. The Chief of Party will work closely with component leads to ensure that the objectives of the program are met.

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

Reporting to the CIRED Executive Director, the Chief of Party (COP) will provide overall day-to-day management and coordination of technical and administrative personnel and functions, including ensuring that appropriate technical and financial reporting requirements are met. The COP position requires strong team building and networking skills, as s/he brokers partnerships across a wide range of stakeholders.

These responsibilities include:

* Provide management, vision, strategic direction and leadership in the design and delivery of the program;
* Provide leadership for programmatic efforts related to the project objectives, activities and outcomes that improve the livelihoods and well-being of Kenyan youth:
  + Facilitate communication and partnerships between Kenyan actors such as youth organizations, academic institutions, private sector partners, and government agencies to develop and deliver high-quality education and training programs in key sectors;
  + Pilot new approaches to incentivize private sector engagement in skills development and the transition from education to employment
* As the VT/CIRED representative in Kenya, manage relationships with USAID/Kenya, Government of Kenya representatives, project partners, and other stakeholders to ensure the quality and timeliness of project implementation;
* Oversee the development and review of annual work plans and budgets;
* Oversee the preparation of quarterly and annual reports to USAID
* Ensure project operations comply with Virginia Tech policies and procedures as well as USAID rules and regulations.

**Education/Experience**

Required Qualifications:

* Master’s degree or higher in education, international development, non-profit management, or a closely related field ;
* Minimum of 10 years of relevant experience in leading programs focused on research, youth services, workforce development, livelihoods, and/or private sector development, with at least four of those in Kenya or countries similar to Kenya;
* Demonstrated success working at the community level assessing challenges, creating and implementing solutions, and achieving measurable results in development projects;
* Demonstrated ability to cultivate relationships and collaborate with a variety of stakeholders such as youth, government ministries and officials, NGOs and donors, evaluators, and community-based institutions, preferably in Kenya;
* Significant experience in leading large and complex donor-funded projects, especially USAID projects; previous COP and/or Deputy COP experience;
* Experience recruiting, forming, and successfully managing teams and ensuring the quality of their implementation;
* Knowledge of USAID policies and procedures;
* Excellent communication skills;
* Fluency in English

Preferred Qualifications:

* Experience with, understanding of, and commitment to positive youth development and gender equality approaches and strategies around livelihoods and well-being, particularly for adolescent girls and young women
* Knowledge of the political, social, cultural, economic, and development context of Kenya at the county and national levels preferred
* Technical experience in education development and research and a strong understanding of higher education institutions and community development
* Written and verbal communication skills in Swahili

**How to Apply**

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume by email to: [CIRED.Jobs@gmail.com](mailto:CIRED.Jobs@gmail.com), with “Chief of Party, Kenya Empowering Youth” in the subject heading. Applications will be reviewed beginning on September 28, 2020, and the position will remain open until filled. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Recruitment is contingent upon successful award of the project; this document should not be construed in any way to represent a contract of employment.

*Virginia Tech is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. Women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and protected veterans are strongly encouraged to apply. Anyone having questions concerning discrimination or accessibility should contact the Virginia Tech Office for Equity and Accessibility.*

**About the Organization:**

Virginia Tech’s Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED) manages and implements externally funded projects in developing countries.