

Contact

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Top Skills

Community Development
Public Policy
Program Management

Languages

French
Korean

Richard Cho

Public servant and policy innovator focused on solving homelessness, reducing unnecessary criminal justice interactions, supporting community living, & addressing the social determinants of health (especially housing).

United States

Summary

Working to end homelessness, increase housing access, and create inclusive communities. Believe government can and should be a force for good when it listens to the needs of its people. Also believe that all people have inherent worth and value.

Experience

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Senior Advisor for Housing and Services
February 2021 - Present (2 years 8 months)

Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
Chief Executive Officer
November 2018 - February 2021 (2 years 4 months)
Hartford, Connecticut

The Council of State Governments Justice Center
Director, Behavioral Health Division
May 2016 - November 2018 (2 years 7 months)
New York, New York

Lead CSG Justice Center's work to promote smart policies that increase public safety and reduce criminal justice involvement among people with behavioral health challenges.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
3 years 3 months

Deputy Director
August 2015 - April 2016 (9 months)

Senior Policy Director
May 2014 - August 2015 (1 year 4 months)
Washington D.C. Metro Area

Under the guidance of the Executive Director, provide strategic direction and coordination over Federal policy efforts to end homelessness including oversight over agency's policy team.

Provide day-to-day management over implementation of Opening Doors, the Federal strategic plan to end homelessness.

Directly lead implementation of Federal interagency effort to end chronic homelessness in 2016, integration of housing and health under the Affordable Care Act, and increasing affordable and supportive housing.

Policy Director

February 2013 - May 2014 (1 year 4 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Provide strategic planning, expertise, and policy leadership around Federal interagency effort to end chronic homelessness.

Support implementation of the Affordable Care Act and health reform as a tool for ending homelessness.

Advise on housing policy, including improving strategic deployment of HUD homeless assistance programs and mainstream affordable housing programs to solve homelessness.

Strengthen alignment between efforts to end homelessness and Justice Department efforts to ensure community integration of people with disabilities and people leaving correctional settings.

Work with Social Security Administration and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to improve access to benefits among people experiencing homelessness.

CSH, the Source for Housing Solutions

12 years 5 months

Director, Innovations and Research

April 2009 - February 2013 (3 years 11 months)

Provide daily leadership and management of the Innovations and Research Team, CSH's research & development unit, including supervision of team of creative professions, quality assurance, budget development and tracking, fundraising, and strategic planning.

Oversee the development of new programs, models and approaches, including the integration of supportive housing within affordable and public housing and community development activities, and supportive housing adaptations designed to serve new populations including criminal justice-involved people, homeless and vulnerable families, homeless veterans, young adults aging out of foster care, and Native Americans.

Oversee and coordinate implementation of national initiatives and demonstration programs, including providing strategic advice on design, implementation, troubleshooting, project management and coaching. Work with public sector officials in crafting and implementing public policy reforms, systems change and plans needed to create supportive housing for CSH's priority and target populations.

Design and oversee research and evaluation efforts that identify new social policy problems and evaluate the efficacy of models and solutions.

Coordinate communications activities related to the dissemination of research and demonstration program evaluation findings, and the replication of promising and tested approaches.

Associate Director, Office of the Chief Operating Officer
August 2008 - March 2009 (8 months)

Explored and assessed new strategic business opportunities and supported efforts to realign strategic direction of organization.

Associate Director, New York
April 2006 - July 2008 (2 years 4 months)

Lead delivery technical assistance "learning collaborative" to New York City providers of innovative supportive housing for chronically homeless adults with disabling substance use disorders as part of evaluation conducted by the National Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) and funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Managed New York Program activities and supervised three professional staff with primary responsibility for advancing innovative program design and service policies for CSH target populations; act on behalf of the Director in her absence

Led New York Program's systems change and policy reform efforts, including initiation of structured demonstration programs, strategic and technical advice to government, and communication with advocacy organizations

Led fundraising and development activities for New York Program; since 2001, raised approximately \$10 million in funds

Provided policy expertise to government in shaping policies and programs to better serve the needs of new and emerging populations such as formerly incarcerated persons, substance users, youth aging out of institutional care and families, especially those with chronic health and behavioral health challenges

Oversaw New York Program's research and evaluation projects related to supportive housing projects and initiatives

Provided financial and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations around the creation/operation of supportive housing

Assisted CSH's National Resource Center to develop manuals, guides and other tools intended to promulgate best practices

Senior Program Manager

October 2005 - April 2006 (7 months)

Designed, launched and oversaw supportive housing model design and development focused on criminal justice-involved populations. Assisted state and local government agencies to design multi-year supportive housing production initiatives.

Program Officer

January 2002 - September 2005 (3 years 9 months)

Designed, launched and oversaw supportive housing model design and development focused on criminal justice-involved populations. Assisted state and local government agencies to design multi-year supportive housing production initiatives.

Associate Program Officer

October 2000 - December 2001 (1 year 3 months)

Provided technical assistance to states and localities around creating housing and services models that facilitate community re-entry of individuals leaving prisons and jails,; and KS

Founded, convened and chaired 'Re-Entry Housing Roundtable'-a coalition of 26 NYC non-profit providers, advocates, and experts focused on increasing housing and services opportunities for persons leaving prison or jail

Provided real estate and housing development technical assistance, including assisting in site identification, program development, project underwriting, partnership formation, and securing commitments for government funding

Originated, underwrote and monitored predevelopment and acquisition loans to non-profit developers of supportive housing; currently monitoring active development portfolio of 12 supportive housing projects

Assisted in managing approximately \$3 million in loan funds for CSH New York Office, including monitoring of loan commitments, disbursements and repayments, and preparation of quarterly reports to US Department of Treasury and private financial institutions

New York University

Lecturer in Public Administration

September 2005 - July 2008 (2 years 11 months)

Designed and taught Program Analysis and Evaluation course at Masters level

Authored summary papers for executive briefing series on Leading Large Scale Change in the Public Sector project, a series for public sector managers to discuss the multiple managerial and leadership challenges of implementing large scale change

AIDS Housing Corporation

Intern

February 1999 - May 2000 (1 year 4 months)

Conducted assessment of housing needs of ex-offenders and criminal justice-involved persons living with HIV/AIDS

Implemented strategic planning process to expand pre- and post-release housing opportunities for formerly incarcerated persons living with HIV/AIDS, including clarification of federal HUD homeless assistance eligibility guidelines

Designed and provided education and training workshops to housing search advocates and housing program directors with regard to targeting housing programs towards ex-offenders and criminal justice-involved consumers

Education

New York University

Ph.D., Public Administration · (2005 - 2017)

New York University

Master in Philosophy, Public Administration · (2005 - 2010)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Master, City Planning · (1998 - 2000)

University of Chicago

Bachelor of Arts, History · (1994 - 1998)