Position: Business Mentor

Reports To: Kayley Lofstrom, Program Coordinator

Summary of Responsibilities: Business Mentors offer business advice and technical assistance to CIE clients through one-on-one in-person or phone consultations to help them start or expand their small businesses.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Participate in CIE’s volunteer orientation
- Participate in CIE’s Bootstrap Business Course
- Participate in CIE’s Speed Coaching event
- Help keep the person you are mentoring stay focused on their business goals.
- Introduce the person you are mentoring to your personal network.
- Attend quarterly mentor meetings/trainings and provide feedback on how to improve CIE’s mentor program.
- Report on mentor duties once per quarter.

Time Commitment: Flexible, but a minimum of at least one hour a month and at least one mentee.

Qualifications:

- Business Mentors must have experience in starting or growing their own business or have basic knowledge of at least two areas of small business development. Special consideration will be given to former CIE clients who have successfully launched their own businesses.
- Business mentors must be passionate about contributing to the mission of CIE and supporting small business owners and must believe in the abilities and potential of the people we serve.
- Business Mentors must be able to suspend judgment and listen deeply They must be patient and understanding of the many personal obstacles to business-ownership our clients encounter. An interest in developing “poverty competency” by learning about the structural cases of poverty and poverty realities is a plus.
- Business Mentors must attend our 4-week Bootstrap Business Course as a student coach prior to being assigned to a client to learn more about where our clients are when they come to us and where they are when they graduate from the training.

Benefits: Join a community of courageous and empowered individuals working toward economic self-sufficiency through small business ownership and contribute to a vibrant local economy and thriving communities.

Contact Kayley Lofstrom at Kayley.lofstrom@cie-nw.org to get involved!