

Food Systems Leadership Network: Call for Network Weavers

April 5, 2021 – September 30, 2021

The Wallace Center's Food Systems Leadership Network (FSLN) is looking to partner with five FSLN members as Network Weavers to support the network's development, deepen connection amongst members, and activate its potential for systems change.

FSLN Network Weavers will commit approximately 5-10 hours per month to this role (max. 55 hours) from April 5 – September 30, 2020. In exchange for your time, effort, and contributions to the network, we're able to offer Network Weavers \$2,500.

Applications are due Wednesday, March 17 at midnight Eastern. [Click here for the application.](#)

Background

About the FSLN: The Wallace Center's Food Systems Leadership Network is a national peer learning community that connects current and emerging leaders, strengthens individual and collective leadership capacity, and fosters collaboration across communities. The FSLN aims to accelerate the realization of a just, equitable, and sustainable food system that generates good food, health, and opportunity for all.

[Visit the Food Systems Leadership Network website and online platform to learn more.](#)

New online platform + merged resources: In the fall of 2020, we launched the FSLN's new website and migrated all resources and expertise housed within the Wallace Center's National Good Food Network (NGFN.org) to this new location and resource hub. This move combines the NGFN's expertise in technical skills like value chain coordination, food safety, food hub development, and financial management with the FSLN's work on systems leadership, nonprofit capacity building, collaboration, and racial equity – and puts everything in one easy to access location. By bringing together these distinct yet increasingly overlapping networks of food systems practitioners, we aim to create a stronger community that can learn and collaborate together.

About Network Weavers

Weavers are focused on enhancing the network's impact and vibrancy by connecting with members from across the network, discerning needs, interests, and trends, and creating opportunities for peer learning, knowledge exchange, and collective impact.

The FSLN Network Weavers

The FSLN Network Weavers will be a cohort of five members who will partner with the FSLN backbone team (Wallace staff) to create an inviting space for members to ask questions, share knowledge, and collaborate together. Weavers will bring ideas, creativity, and resources to share with the network,

along with a passion for connecting food system leaders with one another, a deep commitment to racial and social equity, and an interest in developing collaborative networks for systems change.

Network Weavers will reflect the diversity of the network, including a wide array of perspectives and lived experiences as well as a range of roles and expertise across food value chains. This might include having knowledge of and/or experience in one or more of the following capacities:

- Network development, engagement, and weaving strategies
- Nonprofit management & operations
- Food hub development & operations
- Food safety & quality technical expertise
- Racial equity & systems leadership
- Business, enterprise, & community development, and/or
- Value chain coordination

FSLN Network Weavers will closely engage with each other and with the FSLN backbone team to:

- Build connection with network members & deepen members' sense of belonging in the network
- Increase network membership, member engagement with the FSLN, and member activity on the online platform
- Propose, create, and implement creative strategies for member connection, learning, and collaboration
- Guide the network's direction by making sense of network needs and member and sector challenges, opportunities, and emerging themes

By the end of the six-months, Weavers will have:

- A deeper sense of connection to the network and its members
- A greater understanding of member needs and emerging trends
- Developed and implemented opportunities for members to meet and learn from each other

Roles and Responsibilities

FSLN Network Weavers Responsibilities:

Goal: The goal of the FSLN Network Weavers is to activate the FSLN.

This role supports the co-creation of activities and embraces emergent thinking: while Network Weavers should come to this role with ideas for how to contribute and engage the network, we strongly encourage Weavers to bring the flexibility and understanding that these strategies and activities may evolve as they learn more about the network, member challenges, and the context members are operating in.

As a cohort of Network Weavers there is great opportunity to develop new working relationships; weavers may work together to create and deliver activities throughout this opportunity. Below is a breakdown of the Network Weaver role along with suggested activities to inspire creativity for how you might approach this role and activate the network:

Cohort Relationship Development (approx. 15 hrs)

- Participate in a kick-off and wrap-up call with Wallace staff and fellow Network Weavers
- Participate in monthly check-in calls with full Weaver cohort

Member Engagement + Network Outreach (approx. 10 hrs)

- Engage at least 5 FSLN network members to understand their needs and challenges, community context, and what they would like to gain from being a network member (ex. 1:1 calls, small group call)
 - Share back learnings with Weaver cohort and use insights to develop network activation activities
- Support new member onboarding (ex. Work with Wallace staff to design onboarding strategy)
- Share FSLN opportunities, invite food systems practitioners to the network, and raise awareness of the FSLN with your communities

Network Activation (approx. 15 hrs)

Host a minimum of 2 virtual convenings and offer ideas for post-convening engagement, examples include

- Plan and facilitate learning activities for network members (ex. topical Coffee Chat)
- Plan and host informal convenings of network members (ex. FSLN Happy Hour, FSLN Yoga, etc.)
- Create and facilitate activities that encourage member collaborations (ex. Webinar series or panel conversation featuring multiple organizations)
- Contribute to the design and facilitation of virtual convenings of network members (ex. Network Meet Up)

Leverage the online platform (approx. 15 hrs)

- Maintain a complete, updated FSLN member profile
- Spark and contribute to conversation on the FSLN platform
 - Moderate 1-2 FSLN Discussion Groups (based on expertise & interest) and contribute to others (ex. posting in Discussion Groups, responding to and commenting on others' posts, sharing relevant resources, sharing back trends to Weaver calls, etc.)
 - Post events/webinars/trainings to the platform
- Share written reflections or learnings on the FSLN Member Blog and for feature in the FSLN's monthly newsletter, The Catalyst (ex. Write an article on a food systems or leadership development topic)
- Share and upload resources to the Resource Library and Discussion Groups
- Complete a brief follow-up blog post on your experience as a Network Weaver, to be shared with Wallace Center and the FSLN

Wallace Center responsibilities:

- Schedule and facilitate check-in calls
- Provide platform and tech support
- Provide network information and data gathered to date

- Provide guidance documents on network weaving and tips from past weavers
 - Connect network weavers to FSLN members for interviews
 - Work with Network Weavers to identify topics, experts, and resources for network calls
 - Promote, manage registrations, and provide tech support for calls
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Application + Timeline

How to Apply:

If you're interested in becoming an FSLN Network Weaver, [please click here to access and submit the application](#). You will be prompted with several questions asking you to explain your role in food systems work, what excites you about becoming an FSLN Network Weaver, and what your hopes are for the FSLN.

Applications are due March 17 at midnight Eastern time.

Questions? Contact Annalina: Annalina.kazickas@winrock.org

Timeline:

- Applications open: February 1
- Applications close: March 17
- Interviews: last two weeks of March
- Network Weaver Kick off and Onboarding call: April 5
- Network Weaver activities: April 5 – September 30