Proposal for Partnership between CRN and Coho/US

*Developed by CRN Steering Committee*

*Presented to Coho/US Board*

June 19, 2015

1. **Our intent:** CRN proposes a mutually beneficial partnership with Coho/US. We desire to support the mission and goals of Coho/US in ways in which we are equipped to do so. We will promote rigorous research that addresses questions important for the growth of cohousing. We believe that maintaining objectivity and a critical perspective will lead to a better understanding not only of the benefits of cohousing but also the challenges, thus ultimately lending support to cohousing advocates.
2. **Our commitment:** We aim to serve and support three main constituencies: Coho/US, cohousing communities, and the research community.
3. **Role of CRN in relation to Coho/US:** We anticipate that this will include promoting research that answers questions deemed critical by the Board. This may be accomplished by:
   1. Seeking funding for and conducting primary research on these key topics
   2. Encouraging, supporting, and promoting others’ research on these key topics
   3. Maintaining a liaison with Coho/US in order to maintain communication about existing research and research needs
4. **Role of CRN in relation to cohousing communities:** CRN is sensitive to the fact that cohousing residents receive many requests for research. We aim to lower these demands by:
   1. Encouraging cohousing communities to refer research requests to us
   2. Promoting, leading, and participating in collaborative research that leverages any primary data collection from cohousing communities to answer multiple novel and important research questions.
   3. Using existing data whenever possible
5. **Role of CRN in relation to research community:** We aim to support cohousing researchers in various ways, such as:
   1. Maintaining a bibliography of cohousing research
   2. Keeping abreast of this research in order to advise researchers
   3. Working with researchers to determine which of their questions have already been answered and which could make the most meaningful contribution to their respective fields as well as to the cohousing movement at large
   4. Sharing data in order to maximize the utility of every study
   5. Publishing and presenting on cohousing research in academic and public forums, and bringing students onto these projects
6. **Goals for Coho/US support that will enable CRN to fulfill these roles**
   1. Articulation and prioritization of ways we may contribute to Coho/US goals
   2. Help communicating our mission and functions to cohousing communities and serve as a connector for communications
   3. Facilitation of our networking with and outreach to other researchers
   4. Collaboration on seeking funds from grants and private foundations to support select research
   5. Exploration of partnering with an academic institution to promote, disseminate and archive cohousing research
7. **Specific objectives for Coho/US support**
   1. A Coho/US Board member with the designation of Coho/US-CRN liaison to keep Coho/US informed of the goals, activities, and needs of CRN and ensure that CRN’s goals, activities, and needs are informed and supported by Coho/US
   2. Placement of our logo on the home page of cohousing.org, linking to our website: cohousingresearchnetwork.org (logo will be ready by end of July)
   3. Description of and link to our listserv (via our logo) on cohousing.org (tentatively research-l@cohousing.org, either with cohousing-l or on its own page.
   4. Promotion and website link on Cohousing Now!, including a section to highlight new research up to several times per year.
   5. A “classified ad” in [cohousing.org](http://cohousing.org/), pointing to our website
   6. Communications from Coho/US to cohousing communities explaining CRN’s mission and functions, providing our contact information, and encouraging them to refer research requests to us. This could be accomplished via the newsletter “Community Connections” or other format and should occur at least once per year.
   7. Endorsement by Board members as applicable, including written support ofgrant proposals and verbal acknowledgement and promotion of CRN during conferences and in personal communications with cohousing residents, advocates, and other stakeholders.
   8. Provision of quotes from Executive Director and President re: the critical role of CRN to put on our website.