

Proposal for Partnership between CRN and Coho/US

Developed by CRN Steering Committee

Presented to Coho/US Board

Revised 10-4-15

- I. **Our intent:** Cohousing Research Network (CRN) proposes a mutually beneficial partnership with Coho/US. We desire to support the mission and goals of Coho/US in ways we are uniquely 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.
- II. **Our commitment:** We aim to serve and support three main constituencies: Coho/US, cohousing communities, and the research community.
- III. **Role of CRN in relation to Coho/US:** We anticipate that this will include promoting research that answers questions deemed critical by the Coho/US Board, particularly in supporting the growth of and public support for cohousing. This may be accomplished by:
 - a. Identifying these key topics in collaboration with Coho/US
 - b. Seeking funding for and conducting primary research on these key topics
 - c. Encouraging, supporting, and promoting others' research on these key topics
 - d. Maintaining a liaison with Coho/US in order to maintain communication about existing research and research needs
- IV. **Role of CRN in relation to cohousing communities:** CRN is sensitive to the fact that cohousing residents receive many requests to involve themselves in research. We aim to lower these demands by:
 - a. Encouraging cohousing communities and individuals to refer researchers to CRN and/or forward CRN the research request materials (email, etc.)

- b. Promoting, leading, and participating in collaborative research that leverages any primary data collection from cohousing communities to answer multiple novel and important research questions.
- c. Using existing (secondary) data whenever possible and encouraging other researchers to do the same.

V. Role of CRN in relation to research community: We aim to support cohousing researchers in various ways, such as:

- a. Maintaining a bibliography of cohousing research
- b. Keeping abreast of this research in order to advise other researchers
- c. 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
- d. Sharing data in order to maximize the utility of every study
- e. Publishing and presenting cohousing research in academic and public fora
- f. Supporting student involvement in cohousing research

VI. Ways Coho/US may better enable CRN to fulfill these roles

- a. Articulate and prioritize ways CRN may contribute to Coho/US goals
- b. Communicate relevant CRN information to cohousing communities
- c. Support CRN outreach to other researchers
- d. Support CRN in fundraising from public grant sources and private foundations to support key research
- e. Support CRN in seeking partnership with academic institutions to promote, disseminate and archive cohousing research

VII. Specific objectives for Coho/US support

- a. A Coho/US Board member, who is also a member of the CRN Steering Committee, 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 are informed and supported by Coho/US
- b. Placement of CRN logo on the home page of cohousing.org, linking to the CRN website: cohousingresearchnetwork.org
- c. Continued promotion and website link on Cohousing Now eNews, including a section to highlight new research at least on a quarterly basis

- d. Communicate CRN's mission and functions to cohousing communities, and provide contact information.
- e. Encourage cohousing communities and individual residents to refer research requests made of them by third party sources to CRN. Publish a reminding story in its newsletter "Community Connections" or other format at least once per year.
- f. Endorse funding proposals as applicable, e.g., letters of support, oral testimony.
- g. Endorse CRN during conferences and in personal communications with cohousing residents, advocates, and other stakeholders, when the issue of cohousing research is discussed.
- h. Provide quotes from Executive Director and President about the role of CRN to put on the Coho/US website.
- i. Incorporate and promote research-focused intensives and/or sessions at national and regional cohousing conferences.
- j. Create an ad hoc "Research Initiative" committee led by a CRN board liaison that supports the goals outlined in the partnership proposal, including (1) identifying research questions that could support cohousing growth, such as financing metrics and economic benefits to municipalities; (2) supporting CRN in seeking (a) funding for research and (b) a partnership with an academic institution, e.g., Coho/US endorsement of CRN. If a programmatic role is determined for Coho/US for a research project, e.g., soliciting and collecting data, a portion of research funds sought will be allocated to Coho/US.