Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy

Published November 2021

Mission Statement/Statement of Values

The Common Fund for Nonprofit Organizations, (together with its affiliates, “Commonfund”) established a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office (“DEIO”) with the mission to “intentionally promote and foster inclusion and equity across Commonfund and our investment process, thought leadership and professional and organizational development.”

The DEIO brings together the three core elements of Commonfund’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts: i) to include diverse managers within investment portfolios; ii) to advance the understanding of the value of diversity and inclusion in the asset management industry; and, finally, iii) to provide firm-wide opportunities for professional and organizational development. The DEIO is charged with fostering an environment at Commonfund that values different perspectives, challenges conventional thinking and maximizes the potential of all employees.

Human Capital

Commonfund is committed to fostering, cultivating and preserving a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Our human capital is our most valuable asset. The collective sum of the individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, inventiveness, innovation, self-expression, unique capabilities and talent that our employees invest in their work represents a significant part of our culture, our reputation and our achievements.

We embrace and encourage our employees’ differences in age, color, disability, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, language, national origin, physical and mental ability, race, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, veteran status, and other characteristics that make our employees unique.

Commonfund’s diversity initiatives apply to, but are not limited to, our practices and policies on recruitment and selection; compensation and benefits; professional development and training; promotions; transfers; social and recreational programs; terminations; and the ongoing development of a work environment built on the premise of gender and diversity equity that encourages:
• respectful communication and cooperation among all employees;
• teamwork and employee participation, encouraging the representation of diverse groups and perspectives;
• work/life balance through flexible work schedules to accommodate employee needs; and
• employer and employee contributions to the communities we serve to promote a greater understanding and respect for diversity.

All employees of Commonfund have a responsibility to treat others with dignity and respect at all times. All employees are expected to exhibit conduct that reflects inclusion during work, at work functions on, or off, the work site, and at all other company-sponsored events. All employees are also required to attend and complete annual diversity awareness training.

Any employee who exhibits any conduct or behavior contrary to Commonfund’s policies may be subject to training, counseling or disciplinary action.

Investments – Diverse Manager Initiative

This component of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy is referred to as the Diverse Manager Initiative (“DMI”). The purpose of the DMI is twofold:

• to expand the prospective investment universe on behalf of clients—Commonfund wants to ensure it considers the broadest possible set of investment talent for client portfolios; and
• to meet the specific requirements of those clients with diverse manager investment mandates.

To implement the DMI, Commonfund aims to include diverse managers in every manager search across asset classes. And to facilitate this objective, an internal team of investment professionals—the Diverse Manager Team (“DMT”)—has built and maintains a dedicated Diverse Manager Database comprising all diverse managers across all asset classes with whom the investment teams of Commonfund Capital, Inc. (“CCI”) and Commonfund Asset Management Company, Inc. (“COMANCO”) have had contact. The DMT also maintains a Diverse Manager Portal that allows diverse managers to submit presentations, performance and due diligence questionnaires. In addition, it maintains a dedicated email channel for diverse managers to communicate with the investment teams.

On a quarterly basis, the DMT aggregates a “known universe” of diverse managers across asset classes from various databases. It also updates Commonfund’s proprietary diverse manager database. Manager reviews may include both portal submissions as well as manager meetings. Finally, the DMT updates the number of diverse managers with whom Commonfund is actively invested.

On a semi-annual basis the DMT confers with CCI’s and COMANCO’s investment teams to update the total assets allocated to actively invested diverse managers. These figures are often used in RFP requests.

On an annual basis, the DMT includes questions regarding diverse manager ownership and team diversity in manager due diligence questionnaires.
A definition of an “active” diverse manager is defined as an investment with a net asset value (NAV) of greater than $1. For the purposes of clarity, for marketable investments any manager for whom a full redemption notice has been given would be considered inactive as of the final redemption date, regardless of any holdback for audit purposes. This means that in the case of a hedge fund which has gate provisions it would be considered active until the last redemption had been met, excluding any holdback for audit purposes. Private investments, in which there is no longer an expectation of distributions and the manager itself has terminated the fund, would be considered inactive, regardless of whether it has technically been dissolved.

**Strategic Diverse Manager Industry Partnerships**

Commonfund seeks to collaborate with other institutions that prioritize diverse manager investment initiatives to help expand its pipeline of investment prospects and its network of diversity contacts.

Current relationships can be found in our [most recent Diversity, Equity and Inclusion report](#) available on our website.

Commonfund participates in industry conferences focused on diversity as attendees, panelists and speakers. Commonfund believes it is important to stay connected and to continue to expand relationships with other industry and investment professionals to expand its understanding, knowledge and network focused on diverse managers.