

Application Form**Profile**

If you have any questions or difficulty submitting this application, please reach out to Alex Guzhnay at aguzhnay@newhavenct.gov or call 203-946-7670.

Steve

First Name

Werlin

Last Name

Middle
Initial

swerlin@deskct.org

Email Address

24 Alden Ave

Home Address

Suite or Apt

New Haven

City

CT

State

06515

Postal Code

What ward do you live in (optional - please select ward if you know)?☒ Ward 25

Mobile: (617) 721-8213

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are any of the above number a cell phone number?☒ Yes ☐ No**If so, which? Also, is it okay to send a text message?**

Yes, text is fine.

Are you currently employed by the City of New Haven or the New Haven Public School System?☐ Yes ☒ NoDowntown Evening Soup
Kitchen

Employer

Executive Director

Job Title

To see our list of Boards and Commissions please click here: <https://newhaven-ct.granicus.com/boards/w/976a34cad711af7c/boards>

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

New Haven Food Policy Council: Submitted

Is this an appointment or reappointment request? *

☒ Appointment

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve. Please attach any of the follow:

Resume, Curriculum Vitae (CV), Professional Bio, or a Statement of Interest.

[WERLIN_Resume_2024-12.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

If not submitting a Resume or CV, please submit a ~150 word Statement of Interest as to why you are interested in serving on your selected boards/commissions. If you have uploaded a resume, you can write n/a.

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

As someone who lives and works in New Haven, I consider myself a major stakeholder in ensuring that food policy is carried out in an effective manner that adds value to the lives of all our city's residents.

Why do you believe you would be a good fit for your selected board and commission(s)?

As ED of one of New Haven's largest food assistance providers, I am in somewhat unique position to offer policy advice on food-related issues that directly affect New Haven residents and are specific to the circumstances within our city.

Do you have any time commitments that would prevent you from participating in board/commission meetings? Meeting times can be found by visiting newhavenct.gov/boards, but most are usually once a month for 1-2 hours.

Not available on Wednesday nights.

Question applies to New Haven Food Policy Council

The New Haven Food Policy Council currently does not have a set meeting time. If appointed, what time of day / day of the week works best for you?

Demographics

Some boards and commissions require membership to be politically proportionate, per State Statute on minority party representation (CGS § 9-167a). What is your political affiliation on your voter registration?

Democratic Party

In order to stay compliant with our city's charter, are you registered to vote in New Haven?

☒ Yes ☐ No

We strive to maintain diversity in all of our Boards and Commissions. These questions are optional and if you volunteer the information we will only use it to ensure that our boards and commissions are diverse.

Ethnicity

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

☒ Male

How did you hear about serving on our Boards & Commissions?

Food Systems Policy Director

Steve Werlin

Executive Director, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, Inc.
151 East Street Suite 201, New Haven, Connecticut 06511
(475) 238-8557 • swerlin@deskct.org

Since 2017, Steve has served as the Executive Director of [Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, Inc. \(DESK\)](#), a nonprofit, social services agency providing a range of support to people experiencing homelessness or living in poverty. In this role, he has built up DESK from a small, grassroots community organization, with two staff members and a budget of \$180,000, to a critical provider of homelessness services in New Haven, with 17 staff and a budget of more than \$1.6 million. Following the purchase of a downtown building in 2020, Steve oversaw the opening of New Haven's first low-barrier Drop-in & Resource center for unhoused individuals, including the building's [\\$4 million capital campaign and renovation](#).

Core Skills

- ♦ Strategic Planning
- ♦ Program Development
- ♦ Government Grant-Writing
- ♦ Public Speaking
- ♦ Systems Strategies, Coalition Building, Community Organizing
- ♦ Budgeting, Financial Management
- ♦ External Communications & PR
- ♦ Technical & Persuasive Writing
- ♦ Team Management
- ♦ Leadership
- ♦ Fund Development

Areas of Specialization

- ♦ Housing, Financial Stability
- ♦ Homelessness
- ♦ Street Outreach & Reentry
- ♦ Substance/Drug Use, Addiction
- ♦ Mental Health
- ♦ Harm Reduction Strategies
- ♦ Consumer Empowerment
- ♦ Community Engagement
- ♦ Advocacy & Public Policy

Work History

- 2017 – present **Executive Director**, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, Inc., New Haven, CT
- Oversees nonprofit, social services agency that provides food assistance and homelessness services to more than 4,000 people annually
 - Responsible for strategic direction, revenue development (budget of \$1.6 million), [financial management](#) (assets of \$4 million), and program development
 - Oversees a [fifteen-person staff](#), plus more than [1,500 volunteers](#) annually
 - Works with volunteer Board of Directors to enact governance and strategic planning
 - Leads organization's [community engagement](#) and [advocacy efforts](#)
- 2013-17 **Grant Writer**, Columbus House, Inc., New Haven, CT
- Largest homeless services provider in Connecticut, providing shelter, supportive housing, and employment and benefits services
 - Oversaw grant prospecting, proposals, execution, and reporting for public grants (~\$10.5 million budget) and private grants (~\$400,000 budget)
 - Worked as part of six-member Development team responsible for individual donations, volunteer activities, external communications, major giving, and events
 - Worked with senior leadership, including CEO, CFO, & CPO
- 2012-13 **Youth Group Coordinator**, BEKI-BJ Kadima; New Haven, CT
- Executed 5th-8th grade programming, including social events & community service
 - Adminstrated website, fund accounting, communications, and fundraising
- 2004-10 **Teaching Positions**
- *Adjunct Instructor*, Center for Judaic Studies, University of Arizona (2008-10)
 - *Lecturer*, Adult Education Academy; Tucson, AZ (2007-10)
 - *Instructor & Teaching Associate*, Depts. of Religious Studies and Asian Studies, Center for Jewish Studies, & Friday Center for Continuing Education; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2004-10)

- *Hebrew Teacher*, Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona; Tucson, AZ (2009-10)

Education

- 2016 Cert. in Nonprofit Management. University of Connecticut. [Dept. of Public Policy](#)
- 2012 Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. *Dept. of Religious Studies*
- 2006 M.A. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. *Dept. of Religious Studies*
- 2003 B.A. Tufts University. *Magna cum laude, with highest thesis honors*

Professional Memberships / Select Service to Field

Greater New Haven Regional Alliance to End Homelessness

Member, at-large; Advocacy Committee

Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH)

Member-agency Representative, at-large

Statewide Harm Reduction Work Group

Member-agency Representative, at-large

Greater New Haven Coordinated Food Assistance Network (CFAN)

Co-Chair, Steering Committee, Advocacy Committee

Yale Hunger and Homelessness Action Project

Member, at-large, Advisory Board

Yale Medical School Hunger and Homelessness Auction

Member, at-large, Grant Selection Committee

Yale School of Public Health

CBO Precept, Office of Public Health Practice

Yale Medical School Advisory Program

Community Affiliate, Creed House

Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce

Member, Nonprofit Resource Council, Government Affairs Committee

Community Volunteer Activities

- 2013-17 **FISH of Greater New Haven, Inc.**
Board President (2016); Board Vice-President (2015); Board Member, at-large (2014); Volunteer Driver (2013-2017); Interim Food Assistance Coordinator (2013).
- 2013-present **Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI)**
Co-Chair, Social Action (Tikun Olam) Committee (2014-present); Co-Captain, Abraham's Tent Program (2014-present); Member, at-large, Board Nomination Committee (2013-present).
- 2012-17 **Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (WNPR/CPTV)**
Member, at-large, Community Advisory Board (2012-2017); Chair, Community Advisory Board Nominations Committee (2014).
- 2007-10 **Tufts University Admissions**
Applicant Interviewer, Alumni Admissions Program (2007-2010).

Select Publications

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| Peer-Reviewed Papers | <p>2022 "Coalition Building and Food Insecurity: How an Equity and Justice Framework Created a Viable Food Assistance Network," International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Alycia Santilli, Anna Lin-Schweitzer, Sofia I. Morales, Steve Werlin, Kim Hart, James Cramer, Jason Martinez, Kathleen O'Connor Duffany.</p> |
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- 2022 "The implementation of a nutrition intervention in food pantries: The Spirit of SWAP," *Health Promotion Practice* 22-0089.R1, Sofia I. Morales, Genesis Vincente, Katherine LaMonaca, Jasmine Rios, Shayna Cunningham, Jackson Higginbottom, Erin Mathios, Steve Werlin, James Cramer, Alycia Santilli, and Kathleen O'Connor Duffany.
- Abstracts* 2022 "Project Access-New Haven (PA-NH) Patient Navigators (PNs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs) as Trusted Messengers: A Phone and Community-Based Approach to Disseminating COVID-19 Messages to Underserved Populations," *Connecticut Public Health Association 2022 Annual Conference*, Lauren Kelly, Ma'Galinda Kelly Ager, Millie Landock, Jackie Sanchez, Juan Carmona, Steve Werlin, Alycia Santilli, Kathleen O'Connor Duffany, and James Cramer.
- 2019 "A Trauma-informed Atmospheric Assessment for Food Assistance Programs," *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting*, Alyssa Schneider, Rachel Brase, Jane Dai, Emily Pieper, Steve Werlin, Rachel Ebling, and Debbie Humphries.
- 2018 "Health and Community: Adapting Dietary Guidelines to Client-centered Preferences at a Soup Kitchen," *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting*, with Olivia Campbell, Marina Marmolejo, Jessica Liu, Dashni Sathasivam, Victoria Shirriff, Steve Werlin, Amelia Reese, Nicole Hood, and Debbie Humphries.
- Book* 2015 *Living on the Edge: The Ancient Synagogues of Southern Palestine, 300-800 C.E.* (Brill Academic Publishing: Leiden). (500 pp.)

Select Awards & Personal Research Grants

- 2024 Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, Stars Align Award (for DESK)
- 2022 Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, Stars Align Award (for CFAN)
- 2013 Soup Night Award, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen
- 2010 Shanks Prize for Best Paper at ASOR/SBL Annual Meetings, Biblical Archaeology Society
- 2010 Gerald and Marion Gendell Award for Teaching Excellence; Tucson, AZ.
- 2008-09 Samuel H. Kress Fellowship, W.F. Albright Institute in Jerusalem
- 2007 Lewis and Clark Research Grant, American Philosophical Society
- 2003 Witherby Foundation Grant for Field Work, Tufts University
- 2001 NSF-NEH Grant for Field Work; Athienou, Cyprus