



Where Innovation Flows

## SENIOR FINANCE MANAGER

- Status:** Full-time
- Location:** Chicago-based employee with both in-person (office location is 200 W Madison St. in the Loop) and virtual work required.
- Compensation:** Annual salary range \$78k-\$104k commensurate with experience
- Role Structure:** Reports to Current's Operations Director; works collaboratively across Current's team and with a range of external partners, including Current's accounting partners and audit partners, as well as members of our six-state coalition – NSF Engines: Great Lakes Water Innovation Engine (Great Lakes ReNEW). Significant room to grow and evolve the role with increasing responsibilities and leadership as Current and Great Lakes ReNEW grow and mature.
- Benefits include:** Health/vision/dental plans, unlimited PTO, parental leave, life insurance, retirement match (1:1 employer match up to 5% of salary), flexible work-from-home opportunities, including summer hours, and a dynamic and supportive work environment.
- Application Deadline** May 10, 2024
- To apply:** [Online Application Form — Link](#)

**Please do not forget to attach your resume.**

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Current seeks a full-time **Senior Finance Manager** to manage Current's financial and compliance excellence. As a key member of Team Current, this role supports the Executive Director/CEO and Leadership Team operations.

The primary goal for this role is to help strengthen Current's financial foundation and performance at a time of significant growth: over the next two years, Current will grow from a \$2M organization to a \$10M+ organization because of a major new opportunity with our NSF Regional Innovation Engine, Great Lakes ReNEW.

The ideal candidate will be an excellent accounting-mind with experience supporting grant-funded, mission-driven, innovation-oriented organizations. Strong candidates will be able to work both independently and collaboratively, and will effectively manage and balance competing priorities and deadlines. While support for strategic direction will be provided by the Operations Director and



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Leadership Team, we are looking for a professional who is comfortable with independence and highly motivated to both setting and achieving goals that will contribute to organizational success.

As a collaborative organization, Current has many different audiences that need to be engaged—community-based organizations, research institutions, government agencies, students, corporations and industry partners, entrepreneurs, and investors. We are looking for someone comfortable speaking about all things finance on behalf of the Executive Director and team across a wide variety of leaders and partners.

All responsibilities below apply to Current as well as Great Lakes ReNEW, our largest initiative. Please note that Great Lakes ReNEW has separate boards and advisory groups, brand standards and guidelines as a major funded initiative of the National Science Foundation.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

#### **General Finance Responsibilities**

- Oversee and manage the day-to-day accounting operations, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and general ledger.
- Prepare and analyze financial statements, including monthly closing, balance sheets, and income statements.
- Present financial report at quarterly Board meeting and Finance committee meeting.
- Develop and maintain annual budgets and financial forecasts.
- Manage cash flow and ensure the organization has sufficient funds for operations.
- Oversees and manages Current's external accounting partner.
- Lead the external audit process; a federal single audit as defined in the CFR, and maintain strong relationships with auditors.
- Implement and update internal controls, policies & procedures to safeguard financial assets.
- Provide financial analysis and reporting to support strategic decision-making.
- Manage a team of finance professionals (depending on the organization's size).
- Stay up-to-date on non-profit accounting regulations and best practices.
- Work collaboratively with program directors and other departments.
- Oversee employee timesheet reporting process.

#### **Federal Grant Management**

- Oversee the full lifecycle of federal grant awards, from pre-award budgeting to post-award compliance.
- Ensure adherence to all federal regulations, including Uniform Grant Guidance (2 CFR 200) and specific agency requirements.
- Develop and maintain accurate and detailed grant budgets.
- Track grant expenses and monitor budget variances, proactively recommending adjustments when needed.
- Prepare timely and accurate financial reports for grantors in accordance with their specific requirements.



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- Manage the subaward process, including developing subaward agreements, monitoring subawardee performance, and ensuring compliance with subaward terms and conditions.
- Facilitate and participate in all audits related to federal grants, including single audits.

## **Grant Reporting & Communication**

- Develop and implement systems to track reporting deadlines and requirements for all grant-funded programs.
- Work collaboratively with program staff to gather and analyze data for grant reports.
- Ensure grant reports are clear, concise, and accurately reflect program activities and outcomes.
- Maintain clear and consistent grant documentation for easy reference and audit purposes.
- Communicate grant reporting requirements and expectations to program staff.

## **Additional Responsibilities (as needed):**

- Assist with the development of grant proposals by providing financial projections and cost analyses.
- Analyze and interpret grant regulations and guidance, providing advice and recommendations to program staff.
- Manage risk associated with grant awards, implementing internal controls to safeguard funds.
- Train staff on grant management policies and procedures.

## **Work Schedule:**

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm, with general practice that Mondays and Fridays are remote and Tuesdays-Wednesdays-Thursdays are in person in the office (200 W. Madison). This position may require work on some evenings and weekends. Work schedule may vary depending on organizational needs.

## **Work Environment:**

The work environment includes offices; the noise level is usually moderate. Movement requirements include walking, stooping or kneeling. There may be a need to reach, lift or move objects, such as packages, supplies and computers. Normal (or corrected) vision range; ability to see color and to distinguish letters, numbers and symbols are necessary to the work, which may require close viewing. Occasionally may need to lift and/or move up to 30 pounds. Communication needs include seeing, hearing and speaking. While in the office, there will be periods of sitting, holding a telephone and using computers. Reasonable accommodations may be made for an incumbent to meet the essential responsibilities of the position.

## **What we're looking for — Experience:**

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field (CPA or CMA preferred).
- Minimum of 5+ years of experience in a senior accounting role, preferably within a non-profit organization, government agency, or firm handling similarly situated clients.



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- Strong understanding of non-profit accounting principles and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
- Proven experience in financial reporting, budgeting, forecasting, and cash flow management.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to lead and mentor a team.
- Proficiency in accounting software (e.g., QuickBooks Online, Excel).
- Passion for Current's mission and a desire to make a positive impact.
- Additional Skills (depending on the organization):
- Experience with grant accounting.
- Knowledge of fundraising principles.
- Experience with non-profit specific tax regulations.
- Knowledge of the code of federal regulations financial guidelines.

## What we're looking for — Skills:

- **Accountability:** Effectively manages own work, and work of teams when relevant, ensuring delivery of high-quality work.
- **Diverse Communication Skills:** Uses effective written and oral communication with internal and external stakeholders, including Board of Directors; demonstrates empathy and active listening. Ability to compile board presentations, reports, meeting agendas and minutes.
- **Critical Thinking:** Consistently identifies, gathers, and applies relevant information to work.
- **Partner and Community Service Orientation:** Recognizes needs of diverse stakeholders and approaches relationships with a service-orientation, to ultimately maximize impact.
- **External Relationship Builder:** Invests in and builds strong, trusted relationships with partners. Builds market position by locating, developing, defining, and closing business relationships.
- **Strategic Thinking:** Considers the future of the organization proactively and responsively; weighs diverse inputs to inform strategies; identifies innovative opportunities when relevant.
- **Growth Mindset:** Views growth as important for personal and professional development; seeks out opportunities to expand skills, even if change is required.
- **Development Planning:** Breaks down projects and tasks into process steps, while considering appropriate stakeholders, and executes them effectively; adjusting timelines and prioritizing as necessary.
- **Cool Under Pressure:** Confident, authentic and agile in deciding and acting in situations that require an immediacy that excludes consultation with leadership.

## What we're looking for — Values & Attributes:

- Positive and collaborative work ethic. You have a drive to succeed for and with our team and partners and to lift up the people, organizations, and businesses that share our goals. You perform your responsibilities with strong interpersonal skills: approachability, compassion, and openness to diverse perspectives and new ideas.
- You are team and partner oriented, responding to requests for service with enthusiasm and a sense of wanting to be helpful and responsive to our communities.
- You are methodical and insightful in project planning and execution, agile in response to shifting



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- priorities, and unflustered by managing concurrent tasks and deadlines.
- Creative approaches to problem solving. You relish opportunities to tackle challenges and solve problems in a positive, innovative, creative way. You know that the first idea isn't usually the best, and you know how to push yourself and your team to come up with new approaches.
  - Network orientation. You value relationships beyond one-off transactions and understand that in this long-term, system change work, effectiveness depends on the breadth and depth of our relationships.
  - Curious and learning oriented. You want to understand your successes as well as your failures, and you're fueled by curiosity about the unknown. Everyone on our team is constantly asking questions about how the world works and how we can improve it.
  - Comfort with ambiguity. You have a flexible and agile approach to big and small challenges and understand that progress is often nonlinear. You're willing to adapt and help Current adapt to be more resilient to our changing landscape.
  - Accountability and humility. You're comfortable owning responsibility for a project's execution, but happy to share credit for the final team product. You are motivated by your team's opportunities and successes, and to support the whole team in tasks that contribute to individual and team goals.
  - Empathetic leadership. You understand that our diverse partners across government, community, university, and industry face diverse challenges in their own work, and you listen to understand and build bridges.
  - Results orientation. You find ways to track and measure what matters in your work, and in Current's work. You're rigorous about sharing those results with the team and when appropriate, our partners.
  - You share a passion for Current's mission and values. You have a shared commitment to the things we are passionate about: environmental stewardship; economic opportunity; technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

## **WHO WE ARE**

Current is a Chicago-based nonprofit water innovation hub. Our mission is to grow an inclusive blue economy, accelerate adoption of innovative water technologies, and solve pressing water challenges. The world's persistent water problems — from floods to contaminants like lead and PFAS to decarbonization of water treatment — won't be solved by any one government, scientist, or company. And, unfortunately, people are not rallying fast enough behind new technologies and ideas to protect our health and environment. Founded in Chicago in 2016 in partnership with the City of Chicago, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, World Business Chicago, and the region's research universities, Current builds collaborations among cross-sector leaders to develop solutions that would be too risky or even impossible for any one group to undertake alone. While Chicago is our home, it is not our only market. Current exists to help export our region's home-grown solutions to help solve the world's water challenges and bring the best ideas from around the world to solve ours. In 2024, Current was awarded one of ten inaugural National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines for our six-state consortium, Great Lakes ReNEW. This award accelerated our ambition to serve



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as the hub for Great Lakes water innovation and will provide significant scale-up resources for us to deliver on our broader mission.

### What do Current's team members love about working at Current?

- Working on high-impact projects and knowing that our work is contributing solutions to major environmental and economic challenges
- Opportunities to connect with high-level leaders across multiple industries. Valuable network building and learning
- Collaborating with others who share a passion for water, the environment, and creating economic opportunity
- Flexible working hours and environment and respect for life-work balance
- A culture that is welcoming, curious, collaborative, collegial, and committed to continuous improvement
- The start-up energy of our organization, fluid and dynamic and evolving with significant opportunity to advance and grow from within.

### Our values:

Our values build the foundation of our organizational culture; our values ground and support us and our efforts to deliver on Current's mission.

- **Collaboration.** Current knows that reaching consensus and building trust are key aspects of maintaining and improving our access to clean water. This requires diplomacy and communication to gain the needed insights from a wide variety of project partners. Our work is powered by partnerships. Collaboration begins with listening and setting tables where diverse views, perspectives, and needs can be shared safely in the spirit of developing common solutions.
- **Creativity and Innovation.** Creativity and innovation require environments where diverse perspectives and ideas can be freely shared and debated. Everyone on our team should feel the freedom to question, to learn, to experiment, and to fail.
- **Inclusion.** To solve persistent water challenges and build a stronger blue economy, we need diverse perspectives on both problems and solutions. We value diversity in our team and among our partners, at our tables and in our audiences. We strive to ensure that our work benefits our community.
- **Expertise:** Current maintains a sophisticated understanding of the state of the art in water technology. This field of study changes every day, requiring both deep knowledge and a willingness to adjust our understanding based on new discoveries.
- **Independence:** Current is a nonprofit that is not beholden to any stakeholders but rather has established a mission of advocating for sustainable water solutions that help the public at large.
- **Justice.** We acknowledge that justice – racial justice, social justice, economic justice, gender justice – is fundamental to our work of building a healthier economy and environment. We aim to identify the injustices that create barriers to our work, and to make diligent strides to remedy



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them.

- **Risk-seeking:** Current is not an advocate for the status quo. It's an advocate for the wise use of water to sustain the Earth's population — a mission that requires us to think big and act aggressively to see what works and what doesn't. If we're waiting for guarantees that a new approach will work, we'll never try anything different. Rational risk-taking is part of our ethos.
- **Sustainability.** Through our work and in our daily practices, we strive to conserve and reuse our natural resources, to meet present needs with minimal cost to future generations.

## PARTNER PROMISES

- We promise to discover and promote new approaches and technologies that help solve water challenges. A combination of well-defined mission and professional curiosity drive us to find and share the best answers for difficult problems.
- We promise to challenge old thinking. One of Current's primary missions is to build trusted partnerships to help achieve breakthroughs that go beyond the status quo.
- We promise to keep an open mind: Current believes that attitude and outlook are important. Being receptive to new ideas and constantly seeking new sources of information are the only ways to stay at the forefront of our fields.
- We promise to be a strong partner. Current takes a hands-on approach to the projects it chooses and makes long-term investments in them.
- We promise to take care of our environment. Current is in the sustainability business. We never forget the fact that today's decisions can have major impacts in the world that people encounter decades from now.
- We promise to be an unbiased advocate for the best water solutions. While we work with many partners, our greatest duty is to the public at large and their quality of life. We will always be an honest broker.