

Additional Support for Board Members: Talking Points

- Affordable Housing & Community Connections has been exploring ways to reduce barriers to participation in the Town's advisory boards and provide further support to residents who engage in this meaningful form of service to the Town
- The Town offers different forms of support to help support advisory board members in their roles. Forms of the available support include:
 - **Childcare assistance** is available upon submitting a Reimbursement Form to your Staff Liaison indicating the need for assistance. The Town will provide a fair stipend. Please contact your Staff Liaison or advisoryboards@townofchapelhill.org with your request at least 1 day prior to the meeting
 - **Language assistance** is available to all residents who communicate in languages other than English. We can provide interpreters for the meetings and translate necessary documents. To request these services, contact your Staff Liaison or svaughan@townofchapelhill.org
 - **Technology assistance** is available to those who need help getting access to a computer, web cam, or other devices. A Chromebook (laptop) can be provided to board members for a loaner period of a year. For more information, please contact your Staff Liaison
 - **Transportation assistance** is also available upon submitting the Reimbursement Form to your Staff Liaison if getting to the meeting location proves difficult. Please contact your Staff Liaison or advisoryboards@townofchapelhill.org with your request at least 1 day prior to the meeting
 - **Training opportunities** are available, upon request, to all board members. These opportunities will cover topics such as how to navigate virtual platforms like Zoom, the Town's Language Access Plan, and other helpful information to help you learn and better interact with the Town

Additional Support

- We are also excited to launch a pilot mentoring program, PrePAIRing for Success, designed to help welcome and guide residents who are new to participating on boards and commissions— especially those who self-identify as needing additional support (e.g., immigrant and refugee residents, young people, anyone who is participating in a Town advisory board for the first time, etc.)

- This program seeks to connect new board members with current, experienced members to:
 - Support leadership development, establish genuine community connections, and facilitate mutual learning where we learn from each other
 - Participants in the Preparing program can expect to receive:
 - Regular phone calls with mentor
 - Increased professional confidence
 - Improved communication skills
 - Personalized guidance that answers any questions you may have
 - Prompt information about resources available to you
- If you are interested in signing up for the program, either to gain a mentor or serving as a mentor, please contact Shakera Vaughan, Community Connections Coordinator at svaughan@townofchapelhill.org by Friday, May 20th, 2022