

Fellowship Application

(Please type or print in black ink.)

Full name: _____ **Email:** _____
(Legal name) (Last) (First) (Middle)

Current address: _____ **Permanent address (if different from current address):** _____
Street Street
Apt./P.O. Box Apt./P.O. Box
City State/Province Zip/Postal Code City State/Province Zip/Postal Code

Phone number: _____

Have you ever been employed by or been an intern at the Center for American Progress? Yes No
If yes, provide dates: _____

How did you find out about the fellowship program? (Be specific)
Website: _____ Other: _____

Also include in your application packet the following:

- A personal statement of no more than two pages indicating the reason(s) you are applying for this fellowship, what you hope to gain from your experience, your background in public policy, and your goals related to working in the field. Identify your experience working with communities of color.
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals who can write about your background and skills in performing public policy and your ability to learn. Letters must be emailed by the recommending individual to leadership@americanprogress.org.
- Resume.

I certify that the information contained on this form and in my application packet is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ **Date of application:** _____

All materials submitted must arrive in one package and must be postmarked by July 19, 2013. Materials become the confidential property of the Center for American Progress and are not returnable. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for a fellowship without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, or any other protected status. No question on this application is intended to secure information to be used for such discrimination. The Center for American Progress offers equal opportunity and treatment to all who apply and is committed to diversity.

Send application packet to:
leadership@americanprogress.org

Application deadline:
July 19, 2013

Advisory Panel

Leah Allen is an executive president of Mobilize Green, a national initiative with local governments, corporations, and college students to advance climate, energy, and sustainability policies. She served as chief of staff and legal counsel to a Democratic member of Congress and a similar role for a state delegate in the Maryland legislature.

Nicole Austin-Hillery is the director and counsel of the Washington office of the Brennan Center for Justice. Ms. Austin-Hillery coordinates work with other civil rights, social justice, and democracy organizations in D.C. Priority areas of Ms. Austin-Hillery's portfolio at the Brennan Center include racial and criminal justice advocacy and reform, voting rights, and felon enfranchisement.

Louis Caldera is vice president of programs for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. He's responsible for the foundation's communications, information systems, and program development and evaluation functions. He's held many public service roles, including service as an officer in the U.S. Army, a California legislator, secretary of the Army in the Clinton administration, and president of the University of New Mexico.

Leoni Campbell-Williams is the director of communications for the Asian American Justice Center, or AAJC, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans. Ms. Campbell-Williams joined AAJC from the D.C. public school system where she served as public affairs specialist and was responsible for coordinating communications strategy.

Vanessa Cardenas is the Director of Progress 2050 at the Center for American Progress. Prior to this position Vanessa served as Director for Ethnic Media at CAP.

Ancella Livers senior faculty for Global Markets at the Center for Creative Leadership and a curriculum consultant to CAP-LI. Ancella is a skilled leadership development professional who has worked with thousands of managers and executives over the last 15 years.

Priya Murthy is the policy director at South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow. She monitors and analyzes legislative and administrative policies affecting the South Asian community. She also represents the organization as a member of immigrant and civil rights coalitions as well as before lawmakers and governmental organizations.

Estuardo Rodriguez, Jr. is a principle at The Raben Group where he serves as the counsel on media and communications. Mr. Rodriguez also consults on Democratic and Hispanic issues and works to develop outreach and communications to Hispanic communities.

Ahniwake Rose serves as a policy director for the National Congress of American Indians. Prior to joining NCAI, Ms. Rose worked for the Department of Education as a consultant implementing culturally appropriate education to Indian students through the No Child Left Behind Act.

Nkechi Taifa is a senior policy analyst for civil and criminal justice reform at the Open Society Policy Center. She convenes the Justice Roundtable, a Washington-based advocacy network advancing federal criminal justice policy reforms.

Al Thompson is an attorney at Mehlman Vogel Castagnetti with experience on the House Homeland Security Committee. He served for five years in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Marlene Vasilic is the Director of Outreach and Special Events at American Progress. Prior to coming to American Progress, she was the assistant director for distance learning initiatives and audience enrichment at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.

Jihad Saleh Williams is the Government Affairs Representative for Islamic Relief USA, the nation's largest Muslim American humanitarian organization. Previously, he worked for four years on Capitol Hill and coordinated the Congressional Muslim Staffers Association.

Corrine Yu is a senior counsel and managing policy director for the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. She previously served as The Leadership Conference's director of special projects.

Program description

The Leadership Institute seeks to identify, equip, and advance a new generation of leaders from diverse backgrounds and communities to assume responsible roles in the development and implementation of progressive public policies. The program will consist of a class of Leadership Fellows, drawn from communities of color, who have demonstrated an interest and commitment to progressive public policies. Leadership Fellows will gather two days of each month for nine months to discover, define, and develop skills necessary to create and advocate policy ideas to diverse constituencies. CAP's Leadership Institute is a project of Progress 2050, which develops new ideas for an increasingly diverse America.

Purpose

CAP's Leadership Institute goal is to increase the participation of progressive people of color among the thinkers, shapers, and planners of policy at every level of government as well as within nonprofit organizations and groups that influence public policy.

We will assist Fellows in developing:

- Links and networks with the progressive policy world, including grassroots organizations, media, and government
- Methods to introduce policy ideas to diverse groups and move policy ideas from inception to effecting permanent mainstream change by employing field operations, research analysis, legislation, nonprofit collaborations, and tactical messaging

Program dates

The second Leadership Institute will begin September 12, 2013 and continue through May 16, 2014.

Coursework and curricula

The Institute will present an engagement program for Fellows that includes seminars, policy organization observation, visits to policy and media hubs, networking events, and dinner discussions. Fellows will also be assigned a policy project.

Session topics will include

- Executive leadership and strategic planning
- Communications: Messaging, media, and outreach
- Progressive history
- The role of polling and research
- Development and grantwriting
- Policies for a changing nation: America in 2050
- Immigration
- Poverty reduction
- Civil rights and justice
- International and national security
- Lobbying and government affairs

Participant profile

Leadership Institute Fellow applicants should be highly motivated individuals seeking to expand their skills, perspectives, and networks to impact progressive social change. Successful applicants will have a demonstrated interest in filling the gaps that exist between traditional public policies and communities of color. All Fellows must have at least three years of experience in policy or public service fields. If currently employed, applicants should secure written support from a supervisor affirming their participation in the program's activities. It's highly preferable that fellows live in the Washington, D.C. area or be capable of commuting to the area for monthly two-day meetings during the program period.

Application process

- Fellowship application form (download)
- **Personal statement:** No more than two pages indicating the reason(s) you are applying for this Fellowship, what you hope to gain from the experience, your background in the policy arena, and your goals related to working in the field of policy planning.
- **Resume** (and photo, optional).
- **Two (2) current recommendation letters:** Letters should speak to your relevant background and skills.
- There is no monetary compensation or stipend associated with this institute. All chosen participants must be able to attend all Leadership Institute Sessions.
- **Application deadline: July 19, 2013.**