Local Policy Careers:

Applying to Fellowships

Policy fellowships offer a unique opportunity to engage directly with local policymakers. This guide will help you understand how to identity the right fellowship, craft a compelling application, and prepare for your fellow role.

01 Identify the Fellowship

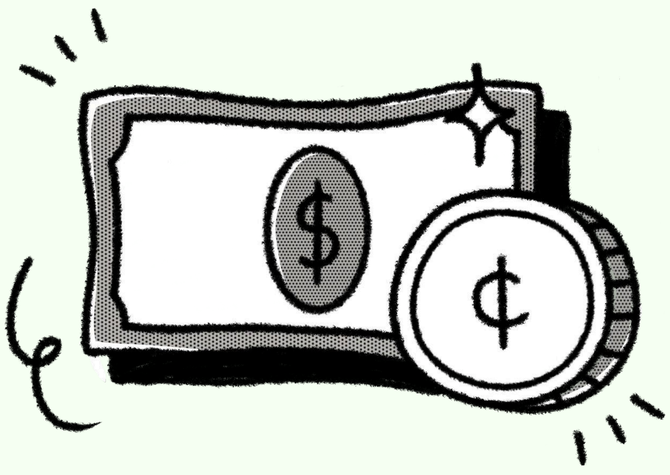
Research Fellowships: Look for programs that align with your expertise, interests and career goals.

Why This Fellowship? Assess how the fellowship fits into a long-term career plan.

02 Research How It Operates

Fellowship Components: Ensure the program has local champions, a nonprofit and/or university umbrella organization, relationships with legislators, and funding.

Understand the Funding: Make sure you know where the fellowship funding comes from and how it impacts your role.

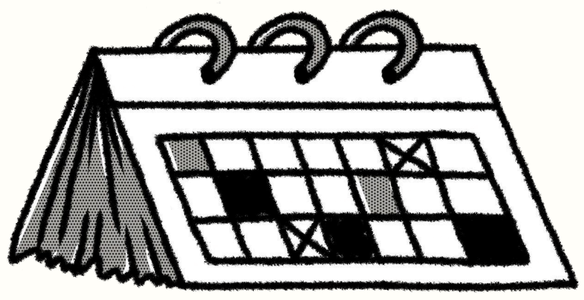


03 Apply to the Fellowship

Know Deadlines: Ensure you don't miss out, stay aware of application deadlines. They vary across state programs.

Strong Personal Statement: Write a compelling statement explaining your motivations, abilities to work with all parties and any qualifications.

Letters of Recommendation: Alert any mentors or colleagues early to give them time to submit strong references.



04 Prepare for the Interview

Talk to Former Fellows: Get advice from people and former fellows who have been through the fellowship process.

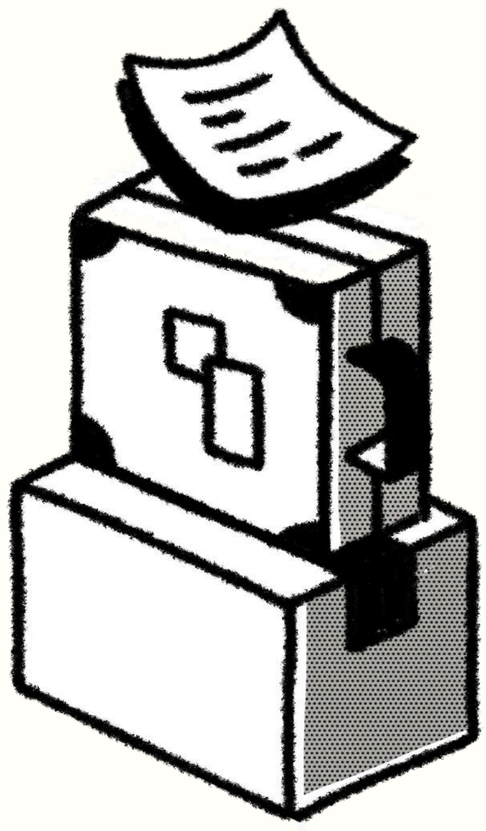
Explain Your Motivations: Be ready to articulate why you're interested in this fellowship and how you'll contribute professionally to all policy discussions.

05 Prepare for the Fellowship

Plan Your Move: If you need to relocate, make sure you've arranged housing and logistics well in advance.

Get Organized: Ensure all necessary program paperwork, local registrations, and housing agreements are prepared ahead of time.

Read Orientation Materials: Familiarize yourself with any preparatory materials provided by the fellowship.



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- **Be Thorough in Your Research:** Understand the fellowship structure and funding before applying.
- **Focus on Your Long-Term Goals:** Choose a fellowship that aligns with your future career aspirations.
- **Engage from Day One:** Prepare to be fully immersed in your fellowship and ready to contribute meaningfully to policymaking.

RESOURCES

- EXECUTIVE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
- STATE GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIPS
- AAAS FELLOWSHIPS
- NATIONAL ACADEMIES FELLOWSHIPS