



2020 Youth Organizing Fellowship

This year, Community Coalition (CoCo) is celebrating 30 years of organizing African American and Latinx youth and residents to influence, change, and create public policy that can improve the quality of life in South LA. The organization successfully pioneered one of the first large-scale action campaigns in the nation to use land-use policy for social justice, made college prep classes a civil right for all students attending the Los Angeles Unified School District, and altered the public debate on foster care to support keeping children with relatives in kinship care. The organization has built a groundbreaking, community-driven approach to creating systemic social change.

Building from successful organizing fellowships over the last three years, CoCo will coordinate its second Youth Organizing Fellowship to contribute to the social justice movement by investing in the next generation of people of color leaders committed to transforming the social and economic conditions of Black and Brown communities and to advancing equity and opportunity. A cohort of (8-12) fellows will be equipped with foundational organizing skills through intensive training in theory of social change, the art and science of youth organizing, and hands-on application in broad base-building efforts of high school students in South Los Angeles.

The Youth Organizing Fellowship will be composed of a diverse group of people contributing to the social justice movement. Fellows will have the opportunity to learn and engage with organizing experts with decades of experience. Additionally, fellows will learn youth organizing through field practice where they will apply power building strategies that address the root causes of poverty, mass incarceration and the school-to-prison pipeline. Most engagement will be done virtually due to COVID-19 Safer-at-Home orders, which will require and allow for experimental and creative approaches to digital youth organizing.

FIELD PRACTICE:

Fellows will have the opportunity to work alongside youth organizers and youth leaders in South Los Angeles. By the end of the program, fellows will have the training and experience of youth organizing by using the following strategies:

- **South Central Youth Empowered through Action (SCYEA):** Fellows will help to facilitate political education and skills development sessions with youth leaders and activists in our youth organizing after-school program.
- **Digital Programming:** Fellows will help to coordinate and facilitate online digital programming that will recruit students to SCYEA and other CoCo programs.
- **Phone Banking:** Fellows will utilize phone banking to mobilize South LA youth to key organizing activities including SCYEA base meetings, civic engagement elections efforts, and other key activities.
- **Virtual Convening:** Fellows will work with youth organizers, youth leaders, and youth activists to mobilize South LA youth to virtual convening that aims to build a platform for South LA youth campaign and policy fights.

FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

The program will start on September 28th and culminate on November 13th. The 7-week Youth Organizing Fellowship is based in South Los Angeles, California but will be facilitated digitally. It consists of political education, organizing training, and field practice through digital broad base-building efforts with South LA high schools youth (14-18 years old). Ideal candidates are people who have work and/or direct life experience related to: neighborhood/community organizing, youth organizing, the juvenile justice system, and education transformation.

REASONS TO APPLY:

- Form or develop political analysis when organizing youth in Black and Brown communities
- Access to political education and organizing training
- Application of foundational youth organizing training through digital field practice
- Engage and network with experts in the field of community organizing

POLITICAL EDUCATION/ORGANIZING TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDE:

- History of Community & Youth Organizing
- Race and Racism
- Black and Brown Unity
- Art & Science of Organizing
- Digital Youth Organizing
- Leadership Development
- Power Building Strategies
- Understanding Power
- Inside/Outside Strategy

CRITERIA:

This fellowship is geared toward new/green youth organizers who want to refine foundational skills in organizing. Applicants should ideally:

- Have a desire to build power in Black and Brown communities
- Have an interest in developing youth organizing skills and learning to build a base to advance policy action campaigns
- Be passionate about community, social justice issues and transformative systemic change
- Be able to work autonomously and as a member of a team
- Have both work and/or direct life experiences that can be harnessed to “hit the ground running”
- Have access to reliable phone and/or computer and reliable internet to participate in digital organizing activities
- Must be able to complete and pass a background check

TIME COMMITMENT AND AWARD:

The Youth Organizing Fellowship is a full-time 7-week program. Participants are required to dedicate 40 hours per week and must be available Monday - Saturday. Each week, fellows are required to participate in political education workshops, organizing training, and field practice. Community Coalition will provide a stipend award to selected candidates.

GUIDELINES TO APPLY:

Applications to the Youth Organizing Fellowship are **due Friday, August 28th, 2020 by 11:59pm PT (no exceptions)**. The selection committee, composed of organizational staff and members, will review all applications. Top candidates will be invited for an interview between September 8th and September 11th. Notifications of acceptance to the fellowship will be sent to selected candidates on Monday, September 13th.

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Fill out the [Youth Organizing Fellowship Application Form](#) [LINK: bit.ly/30J3RIe].
 - a. Fully read application requirements below before submitting your application.
 - b. Prepare your application materials before proceeding to fill out the application form.
2. Submit a 1-page essay including your responses to the following questions:
 - a. Why are you interested in applying to Community Coalition's Youth Organizing Fellowship? *(for example: your connection to South LA or Community Coalition, who/what inspired your interest in community organizing, your commitment to youth, involvement in youth groups related to social justice while in high school, etc.)*
 - b. Using the criteria, what strengths can you contribute to the fellowship?
 - c. Describe your experience in organizing campaigns you have been involved in.
 - i. What organizing skills did you practice and develop during that time? *(for example: outreach & recruitment, canvassing, phone banking, social investigation, mass mobilization, and/or campaign development)*
 - ii. Share an experience where you engaged decision makers for the betterment of your family, school, neighborhood, community.
 - d. What experience do you seek to gain from this fellowship?
 - e. How will you utilize what you learned after the fellowship has concluded?
3. Provide a response to the following question (max 250 words):
 - a. A core value of Community Coalition is to build solidarity between Black and Brown residents. Share your thoughts about why it's an important strategy for creating social change.
4. Upload a 1-minute video with your application introducing yourself to the selection committee.
5. Submit your resume & references.

Email fellowship@cocosouthla.org for any additional questions about the program and/or application.

