



Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation Fellowship Program 2017

Introduction:

The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation (ILBCF) is dedicated to creating opportunities that engage future generations, and provide opportunities for their collective voices to be heard. Since 2002, the ILBCF has gifted over \$370,000 in scholarships to deserving students. The ILBCF wants to extend its work by hosting the first fellowship program in our organization's history. The ILBCF's Council on Urban Affairs will be hosting three fellows during the 2017 legislative session.

Our fellows will be tasked with: issue development, legislative drafting, creating facts sheets, serving as the ILBCF's policy expert, communications and attending several seminars to help them discover more aspects of state government. The Fellowship program doesn't require students to be in Springfield, but they will be required to remotely work with the foundation to advance its policy agenda. Fellows will be provided with a \$2,500 stipend for their January – June semester of work and also cover travel expenses to Springfield for meetings.

Selection Process:

- We are seeking college juniors through Ph.D. students and recent graduates who maintained at least a 2.7 G.P.A and have displayed their commitment to improving their community by affecting change.
- If you want to develop your skills and have graduated from college in the last several years, you are also qualified
- During our application process, potential fellows will be tasked: with writing a policy paper proposing legislation to help African – Americans in one of the following areas: healthcare, business, criminal justice, gun violence reduction, education or job creation. Fellows will be selected based on the feasibility and impact of their legislative proposal.

Partnering:

The ILBCF will be partnering with several organizations to expose our fellows to every aspect of state government. Fellows will meet with statewide organizational leaders to discuss key issues facing black communities throughout Illinois. Fellows will also meet with key policy experts to learn about issues they are currently advancing through the General assembly so they can get a better grasp of their role as the ILBCF's policy expert.

Fellows work closely with members of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus who will help fellows advance the legislative idea from their policy papers during their application process.



This year...

This year, the ILBCF will present a legislative agenda that will address issues within the black community. We will work with community groups and legislators to advance legislative solutions. Our Fellows will play a pivotal role in assisting our Council on Urban Affairs, which is the research agency within the ILBCF.

Eligibility to apply for the ILBCF fellowship is limited to:

- All citizens, nationals, and permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card) of the United States, as well as individuals granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, regardless of race, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation.
- Individuals with evidence of superior academic achievement (such as grade point average, class rank, honors or other designations).
- Individuals committed to a creating change in their community.
- Applicants must currently be in their Junior year of college or above. We also encourage students seeking their M.A., J.D. and Ph.D. to apply, along with recent graduates.
- Minimum 2.7 grade point average.

Fellowship Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Develop one legislative measure that a member of the General assembly advances
2. Create legislative fact sheets for the Council on Urban Affairs.
 - a. As issues are presented to the General Assembly, we will be asking our fellows to develop information for the ILBCF to pass along to legislators.
 - b. Impact Documents – as legislation advances in the legislative process, our fellows will be tasked with researching the impact of legislative changes.
3. Be prepared to present legislation to committees, interest groups and members of the General Assembly.
4. Strategize and implement a public relations plan.
5. Attend orientation
 - a. At orientation fellows will learn about; the legislative drafting process, the legislative process, how to change public opinion though public relations seminar and how to analyze legislation
 - b. Legislative Career possibilities
 - i. Fellows will hear from several speakers about possible careers in government and government relations



Important Dates

- September 3, 2016 – Application released to public
- December 18, 2016 – Application deadline
- December 28, 2016 – Fellows announced
- January 6, 2017 – Fellowship start date and orientation
- January 6, 2017 – First half of stipend distributed to Fellows
- June 1, 2017 – Fellowship ends
- June 1, 2017 – Last half fellowship stipend check awarded

Fellowship Stipend

Selected Fellows will be given a \$2,500 stipend in 2 check increments. One check will be given during orientation and the other will be mailed concluding the Fellowship and all fellowship requirements. Each stipend check will be \$1,250. We will be selecting three Fellows.

Supervision Received

Fellows will be under the direction of the ILBCF Executive Director Larry Luster and the Fellowship Committee. Fellows will also report to members of the General Assembly if questions or additional research is needed for their legislative proposal.

Academic Credit

The ILBCF will work with college and universities throughout the state to help fellows obtain college credit for their participation. We will provide the needed documentation if this program qualifies Fellows for course work.

ILBCF Fellowship Committee

- Mr. Vince Williams – Chair
- Assistant Majority Leader Senator Kimberly A. Lightford
- Senator Toi Hutchinson
- Mrs. Tiffany Hightower
- Representative Chris Welch
- Larry Luster