



# ACLS LEADING EDGE FELLOWSHIP

<b>Project:</b>	Mapping African Immigrant Communities Post-2020
<b>Organization:</b>	African Communities Together
<b>Location:</b>	New York City and Washington, D.C. [Fellow will work remotely]
<b>Stipend:</b>	\$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding
<b>Start Date:</b>	January or February 2021

## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

African Communities Together (ACT) is a national organization of African immigrants with offices in the New York City and Washington, D.C. metro areas. ACT empowers African immigrants to integrate socially, get ahead economically, and engage civically. ACT connects African immigrants to services, develops our members as grassroots leaders, and takes action to make social change. Since its founding, ACT has connected thousands of African immigrants to direct services, trained hundreds of new leaders, and led successful policy campaigns at the federal, state, and local levels that have impacted hundreds of thousands of immigrants. ACT's African immigrant membership comes from a diverse range of nationalities, cultures, and languages, is religiously diverse, and is predominantly working-class and low-income. To learn more about ACT, visit <https://africans.us/>.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Over 2 million African immigrants lived in the United States, according to 2018 data. This population increased by 52 percent between 2010 and 2018, significantly outpacing the 12 percent growth rate for the overall foreign-born population during that same period. Despite relatively high rates of education and employment, African immigrants confront numerous challenges as Black immigrants, including high rates of poverty, low levels of civic participation, and racist and xenophobic policies. These challenges have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis, which has disproportionately affected African immigrant communities, from those who are medically at-risk and laid off or displaced workers, to essential workers and those excluded from government relief. At the same time, the current political —moment— including the national uprisings against systemic racism and structural —violence— offers a unique opportunity to amplify the visibility and voices of our communities, and advocate for transformational change.

The Leading Edge Fellow will join ACT's team as a Research Manager, and use policy research, qualitative and quantitative data, and personal narratives to advocate for policy reforms that advance immigrant and civil rights, economic development, and access to services for African immigrants living in the United States. The Research Manager's primary focus will be updating ACT's demographic research on African immigrant communities in New York City, Washington, D.C., and other metro areas, as well as crafting regional profiles for publication that present this data in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, developments in U.S. immigration policy, and the racial justice uprisings. This research will help advance public awareness of the needs of African immigrant communities and support local, state, and federal policies that advance legal equality, economic development, access to resources, and civic engagement among African immigrants. The Leading Edge Fellow will report to ACT's Executive Director; will be part of the National Staff of the organization; and will work closely with ACT's Chapter

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Directors, ACT's Policy Director, and other program staff. The fellowship tenure is 12 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 40 hours per week.

### **Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Work closely with the Executive Director, key staff members, and partner organizations, including academic research centers, to develop regional profiles of African immigrant communities in the NYC and DC metro areas for publication
- Produce an internal research and strategy memo that will help ACT assess potential locations for additional chapters across the U.S
- Track, gather, and analyze demographic, immigration, and labor research and statistics from a variety of governmental and non-governmental sources
- Remain informed on emerging social science and humanities research on African migration and African immigrants in the U.S. in order to produce issue briefs and presentations that synthesize complex policy issues and developments, and explain their significance to our members and partners
- Work closely (where relevant) with ACT's Policy Director and partner organizations to produce and disseminate persuasive policy reports and briefing documents, case studies, profiles, and white papers to support ACT's organizational development and advocate for policy change.
- Assist in developing funding proposals for future research projects

### **Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanistic social sciences, so long as the applicant's research contributes to the scholarship and understanding of religion, theology, or ethics. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Excellent writing and research presentation skills; if selected, finalists will be asked to submit a research and writing sample
- Familiarity with both qualitative and quantitative analysis; position will not require sophisticated statistical methods, but will require tabulation of basic demographic data (language, nativity, etc.) from sources such as the American Community Survey and the Census
- Excellent organizational skills and detail-oriented approach
- Willingness to work in a collaborative community organization environment, accountability to goals, and ability to work independently
- Ability to work under time pressure, meet deadlines, and prioritize tasks
- Understanding of, and interest in developing cultural competence in, African immigrant communities
- Alignment with ACT's mission and values

#### *Preferred:*

- Fluency in French, Arabic, or a widely-spoken African language
- Experience with African immigrant communities
- Familiarity with New York and/or Washington, D.C. metro areas

### **APPLICATIONS**

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: <https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships>
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: 9pm EST, November 2, 2020

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