



# ACLS LEADING EDGE FELLOWSHIP

<b>Project:</b>	Analyzing the Impact of COVID-19 on Poor and Low-Income People to Transform Conditions on the Ground
<b>Organization:</b>	Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice
<b>Location:</b>	New York, NY [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

The Kairos Center is a national organization of grassroots religious and community leaders dedicated to building a social movement to end poverty led by the poor. Our network of leaders and organizations have roots in organized struggles of the poor and dispossessed extending back several decades and are also on the leading edge of social change efforts today. We are one of the two anchor organizations of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. Our program areas include: Movement Arts and Culture; Rights and Religion; Policy Research; Education and Leadership Development; Media and Communications, and Publications. To learn more about Kairos, visit <https://kairoscenter.org/>.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

There are over 140 million poor and low-income people living in the United States. 64 million workers earn less than \$15/hour, and there is not a single state in the country where a minimum wage job is enough to pay the rent on a two-bedroom apartment. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, these numbers are expected to rise as conditions for the majority of working people continue to worsen. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The prescription for the cure rests with the accurate diagnosis of the disease." In order to build effective movements to address these conditions it is essential that we better understand what people are going through.

The Leading Edge Fellow will join the Kairos Center as part of its policy team to research and communicate the conditions facing poor and low-income people during the pandemic and ensuing economic crisis. Working with the Kairos Center's and Poor People Campaign's network of grassroots and community leaders, the fellow will engage and interview poor and low-income people who are organizing against these injustices across dozens of states. These first-hand accounts and related research will contribute to breaking down false narratives about the poor and help build power among the poor to transform the conditions that continue to impoverish so many across the country. The fellow's work will also contribute to policy work focused on housing, health care, welfare, militarism, and lifting the load of poverty for all.

The Leading Edge Fellow will report to Kairos' Executive Director, the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, and will work closely with our Program Directors, as well as leaders from the Poor People's Campaign. The fellowship tenure is 12 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 40 hours per week.

This position is *only* available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program.  
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

### **Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Work closely with the Executive Director, Kairos staff members and program coordinators—as well as partner organizations including Poor People’s Campaign state leaders, academic institutions, and policy research centers—to draw insights and translate findings into briefs, papers, infographics, and other resources that support on-the-ground organizing efforts
- Under guidance of project lead researchers and program directors, gather demographic information about the living and working conditions of COVID-19 low wage workers to produce regular briefings for project leaders
- Based on these projects’ findings, formulate a central research project that will be further defined and developed by attending regular meetings (remotely) with policy team and research institutes
- Assist in conducting and transcribing research interviews, and in writing and formatting research summary reports, as needed

### **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 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 Bureau
- Excellent organizational skills and detail-oriented approach
- Willingness to work in collaborative community organization environment; accountability to goals; and ability to work independently
- Ability to work under time pressure, meet deadlines, and prioritize tasks
- Alignment with Kairos’ mission and values

#### *Preferred:*

- Familiarity with social movement building and the history of social struggle in the United States and/or other parts of the world

### **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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