ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project:</th>
<th>Using the Power of the Humanities to Improve Health Outcomes for the Arab American Community</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization:</td>
<td>ACCESS (Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services) (Dearborn, MI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Remote</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stipend:</td>
<td>$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding</td>
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<td>Start Date:</td>
<td>September 2021</td>
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**ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

The mission of ACCESS is to empower communities to improve their health and their economic, social and cultural well-being. ACCESS has been serving the community for 50 years. Founded by a group of dedicated volunteers in 1971 out of a storefront in Dearborn’s impoverished south end, ACCESS was created to assist the Arab immigrant population to adapt to life in the United States.

Today, ACCESS is the largest Arab American community nonprofit in the United States. With 11 locations and more than 120 programs serving metro Detroit, ACCESS offers a wide range of social, economic, health and educational services to a diverse population. ACCESS continues to honor its Arab American heritage while serving as a nonprofit model of excellence. The agency is dedicated to community-building, focused on service to those in need. Through its three national institutions like the Arab American National Museum (AANM), the National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC), and the Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP), ACCESS serves all Americans. Learn more at [https://www.accesscommunity.org/](https://www.accesscommunity.org/)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Arab Americans, although maligned in popular culture and political rhetoric, are not a federally recognized minority and are considered “White.” Because of this, finding accurate data on the community is very difficult, which makes addressing the needs of this vulnerable population, which has a high number of refugees and recent immigrants, challenging. We do know, from scant existing data, that when you disaggregate Arabs from the White population, a portrait of a unique and underserved community emerges. It is ACCESS’s goal to use a multi-disciplinary and multi-sector approach to address the inequities that result from the community’s invisibility in data collection and health research.

The Leading Edge Fellow can be innovative and experiment with using the power of the humanities to address public health issues in the Arab American community, such as substance use, domestic violence, environment, children and family, and other social determinants of health.

The work of ACCESS cuts across all sectors, from direct social services to legislative advocacy and from public health research to arts and culture, through the work of ACCESS’s Arab American National Museum, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. The fellow would have the ability to get involved in much of the work that ACCESS does, learning first-hand about integrated service delivery to a minority community. This is a full-time commitment for the fellowship year, including dedicated time for professional development activities.

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 with ACCESS communications to “translate” scholarly research for a general public.
- Create multi-platform social media campaign that uses stories and accessible language to provide practical knowledge from the dozens of research projects that ACCESS facilitates with university-based faculty.
- Offer a humanistic perspective as a member of the planning committee for the 9th ACCESS Arab Health Summit, slated to occur in late 2021. The Arab Health Summit brings together researchers and practitioners from across the globe. The fellow will help guide content for the Summit program and provide an evaluation of how future Summits might better integrate the humanities.
- Develop an interdisciplinary project on a health issue facing the Arab American community, based on the fellow’s own scholarly interests. This would be a pilot project for how the humanities can address public health (including social determinants), and could take the form of a short videos, a workshop series, a publication, a public art project, etc.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields here;
- Ability and interest to work with an ethnic and immigrant community;
- Ability to develop communications materials (language, infographics, etc.) that help to translate scholarly research to a broad and diverse national community;
- Desire to apply concepts and themes from the humanities in a public health and social service framework

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 EDT, May 6, 2021