ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

Position Title: Policy Analyst
Organization: Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta
Location: Atlanta, GA
Stipend: $62,500 in the first year, $65,000 in the second year, plus health insurance and professional development funding
Start Date: September 2022

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta is the first and only nonprofit legal advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) in Georgia and the Southeast. Through our work, we envision a social movement in which communities of color are fully empowered, active in civic life, and working together to promote equity, fair treatment, and self-determination for all. Founded in 2010 as the Asian American Legal Advocacy Center (AALAC), our organization became part of the Asian Americans Advancing Justice affiliation in 2014. Since then, we have re-organized our focus areas more specifically into four groups: Policy Advocacy, Organizing & Civic Engagement, Impact Litigation, and Legal Services.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Policy Analyst is responsible for research, writing, and policy-related communication related to the Voices Rising campaign, which is a new campaign to ensure elections are accessible to all Georgians so that every single voter can exercise their fundamental right to vote, no matter what language they speak. The Policy Analyst will work under the direction of the Policy Director in the Policy Advocacy department to assist in local and state-level policy advocacy efforts and develop policy briefs, one pagers, and white papers on the Voices Rising campaign for community members, partners, and other stakeholders. Voices Rising is the feature campaign of the Policy Advocacy team for 2022 and is one of four strategies working together toward Advancing Justice-Atlanta’s goal to build AAPI and immigrant power in the South.

Since 2000, Georgia’s immigrant population has nearly doubled in size to over 1 million with 1 in 10 Georgians now an immigrant. Immigrant voters with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), meaning that they do not speak the English language fluently because it is not their native language, cannot meaningfully participate in the electoral process. About 89% of LEP voters in Georgia do not have access to key translated election materials, among a number of other obstacles to participation. Additionally, research shows that targeted minority language voting materials and related outreach can improve voter turnout. While Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 includes provisions for LEP voter access intended to decrease barriers to voting due to limited English proficiency, its requirements are also contingent on threshold numbers of LEP voters to trigger these provisions, for which only four language groups are eligible, among additional issues. Accordingly, the goal of the Voices Rising Campaign is to secure a commitment from the state and local governments across Georgia to create and advance language equity for all Georgia voters, above and beyond the Voting Rights Act provisions and in line with the current needs of Georgia’s LEP voters.

Voices Rising follows on Advancing Justice-Atlanta’s successful 2020 Dear Georgia, It’s Time campaign, which secured Korean and Spanish language composite sample ballots and materials in DeKalb County in metro Atlanta ahead of the 2020 general election - marking DeKalb as the first county in Georgia history to offer translated voting materials in an Asian language, and in doing so, the first county to voluntarily

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take steps beyond those required by the Voting Rights Act to expand meaningful language access. The *Voices Rising* campaign is intentionally being launched at a critical inflection point for AAPI voters in Georgia. AAPI voters turned out in record numbers in the 2020 general election, with a 91% increase in turnout over 2016. We expect the success of the *Voices Rising* campaign to enable the next big increase in AAPI voter engagement and turnout.

The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

**Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Work closely with the Policy Advocacy Director, key staff members, and partner organizations including peer advocacy and immigrant/social justice organizations to research, analyze data, and develop policy-related communications in a variety of formats related to linkages between in-language resources and voter engagement and turnout, and the need for in-language resources around elections.
- Track, research, and analyze data points related to Georgia’s AAPI and immigrant communities’ needs for in-language election resources, including localizing research at the county level in addition to conducting research at the state level, including analysis of demographic information.
- Research and analyze legislators and campaign stakeholders to target and segment campaign messaging as necessary.
- Remain informed on national language equity movements and make recommendations from these movements to advance the *Voices Rising* campaign.
- Coordinate with Advancing Justice - Atlanta’s Impact Litigation and Civic Engagement and Organizing teams as well as Executive Director and Deputy Director on cross-team opportunities to advance campaign’s goals and messaging.
- Assist in developing funding proposals for *Voices Rising* and future campaigns.

**Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields in our [FAQ](https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-leading-edge-fellowships/);
- Experience working with media, including social media and online platforms;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Ability to handle multiple projects and work efficiently to meet deadlines;
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work with a diverse group as well as part of a team;
- Knowledge of immigrant and refugee populations in Georgia and the South.

_Preferred:_

- Bilingual abilities are preferred (Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Hindi/Urdu, or Spanish are a plus!)

**APPLICATIONS**

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-leading-edge-fellowships/
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 28, 2022, 9pm EDT

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