



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

Position Title:	Community Engagement and Advocacy Manager
Organization:	YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
Location:	Chicago, IL (In Person)
Stipend:	\$66,000 in year one, \$70,000 in year two, plus health insurance, \$3,500 per year in professional development funding, and up to \$5,000 for relocation costs
Start Date:	September 2023

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Founded in 1876, [YWCA Metropolitan Chicago](#) is a social enterprise committed to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. As a leading association among a national network of more than 200 YWCAs, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago impacts tens of thousands of individuals and families annually through comprehensive human services provided across the region. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a leading service provider in the areas of sexual violence support services, early childhood and child care provider services, family support services, youth STEM programming, and economic empowerment services. A commitment to racial justice, equity, and inclusion runs through all YWCA activities. Located in the third-largest American city, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago serves as a national incubator for innovative programming, outreach and engagement strategies. Contributing to a diverse and balanced economy, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is working at the individual and systems levels to create an inclusive marketplace where everyone thrives. The organization is also an active member of many national, state, county and city-level coalitions, advocating for policies that combat racism and positively affect women and families.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Community Engagement and Advocacy Manager (CEAM) will work with the Vice President, Policy, Research, & Evaluation (PRE) to implement a human-centered policy and advocacy agenda for the organization. This work will critically support YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's mission and vision by transforming the policy landscape to be more inclusive, ensuring that often-sidelined people and groups are not only heard but also empowered to drive impactful policy change. The fellow's work will involve two key parts: First, the development of community circles that bring together individuals from historically and presently marginalized groups to spark public engagement and inform the organization's policy and advocacy agenda. And second, the translation of these circles' conversations to an enterprise-wide advocacy agenda.

The CEAM will manage the design and facilitation of community circles for YWCA clients and their families across our locations, in-person and virtually. These circles will empower participants, specifically members of historically marginalized groups, to engage in public policy by giving them the necessary resources and tools to advocate for themselves and their communities. Working with YWCA program leadership, the CEAM will identify community circle participants and coordinate logistics for regular in-person and/or virtual meetings. Circles will include an introduction to, and discussion about, local, state, and federal politics, explaining how participants can engage at each level through voting and advocacy. They will also facilitate dialogues that enable participants to determine key issues they want to address via policy and advocacy, and to determine and take steps to advocate for change for themselves and their communities. The CEAM will work with PRE team members to organize opportunities for circles to act on these steps and connect with policymakers and community members as needed to realize their goals. The CEAM will be responsible for reporting on these circles' activities and ensuring that clients' experiences

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and needs are accurately reflected in the organization's policy and advocacy agenda. The CEAM will support the agenda's publication and evaluation, providing significant support to writing the annual policy and advocacy agenda and analyzing its implementation using an equity lens. Over the course of the fellowship period, the CEAM will support the development and dissemination of two annual policy and advocacy agendas and manage quarterly reporting on advocacy developments for the organization. The CEAM will report to the Vice President, Policy, Research, & Evaluation (PRE) and work most closely with the PRE team. The Fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week. This position will require documented proof of full COVID-19 vaccination. New employees will be required to provide proof of vaccination prior to start date.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Collaborate with YWCA staff to build and manage community circles in line with best practice and organizational standards.
- Prepare quarterly impact reports on community circles and organizational advocacy agenda.
- Present key findings from community circles and impact reports with internal and external stakeholders, including YWCA leadership, Board members, corporate partners, policymakers, and partner organizations.
- Develop connections between local, state, and federal policies and YWCA work.
- Facilitate dialogues among YWCA community circles to ensure advocacy agenda and internal program evaluations are responsive to clients' diverse lived experiences.
- Support the Policy, Research, & Evaluation team in aligning research and evaluation protocols and policy agenda with client experiences.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields in our [FAQ](#);
- Experience managing complex projects, especially research projects that involve coordinating and collaborating with multiple participants and stakeholders;
- Knowledge about and/or interest in current issues affecting individuals and communities experiencing marginalization, including, but not limited to, reproductive rights, gender-based violence, equitable judicial sentencing, and employment protections;
- Excellent facilitator with extensive experience moderating conversations/interviews with diverse participants;
- Interest in participatory research methods and democratic deliberation;
- Experience applying an equity lens, especially with attention to gender and race,
- Alignment with YWCA's mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all;
- Ability to write for a general audience; finalists may be asked to provide a brief writing sample.

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: 9:00pm EDT, March 15th, 2023.

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