



ACLS Graduate Internships on the Spiritual Infrastructure of the Future 2026

Project Organization	Mapping and Strengthening Muslim Spiritual Infrastructure in Minnesota CAIR-MN
Location	Minneapolis, MN
Stipend	\$15,400
Duration	9 weeks, Summer 2026

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

[CAIR-MN](#)'s mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. Since 2007, CAIR-MN has served as a leading voice for civil rights and religious freedom in Minnesota, advocating for Muslim communities and building cross-cultural partnerships. The organization addresses challenges faced by Minnesota's diverse Muslim population, with a focus on East African/Black Muslim communities who experience disproportionately high rates of Islamophobia. Through civil rights advocacy, media engagement, civic participation, and diversity training, CAIR-MN works to ensure that Muslim communities are fully included in Minnesota's social and political life.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The fellow will be integrated into CAIR-MN's Research and Advocacy team, working closely with senior staff and community partners to ensure the project supports CAIR-MN's long-term efforts to strengthen community resilience and expand public understanding of Minnesota's Muslim communities. Using a mixed-methods approach, the fellow will carry out a study that brings together both qualitative and quantitative data, designed to lead to a curated collection of texts. This will include mapping the institutions that shape daily life for Minnesota's Muslim communities, such as mosques, Islamic schools, community centers, and cultural organizations. These spaces provide much more than worship. They are where families find support, young people build identity, and community members access education, health resources, and immigrant services. Alongside this mapping, the fellow will conduct oral histories and interviews, administer surveys, and analyze community needs. This project will document and strengthen the spiritual infrastructure of Minnesota's Muslim communities, with a particular focus on East African/Black Muslims. The fellow will also engage in public-facing work by helping to develop an online, publicly accessible directory of spiritual and community resources, helping draft policy recommendations in areas such as mosque and community security, religious accommodations in schools and workplaces, and equitable access to public services, and organizing community workshops to share findings. This work directly supports CAIR-MN's mission by generating data-driven insights to inform advocacy, strengthen community resilience, and expand public understanding of Minnesota's Muslim communities in the broader context of religious change in the U.S. The internship appointment is for 9 consecutive weeks, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Key Responsibilities:

- Contribute to a comprehensive mapping report of Minnesota's Muslim spiritual infrastructure, with a focus on East African/Black Muslim communities.
- Collect and organize oral histories, community narratives, and survey data that will serve as the foundation for a longer-term anthology project.
- Support community workshops and presentations to share preliminary findings and foster dialogue.
- Assist in drafting policy recommendations that build on CAIR-MN's ongoing priorities, including mosque security and religious accommodations.
- Lay the groundwork for a public online directory of spiritual and community resources that CAIR-MN will continue to develop beyond the internship.

This position is *only* available through the ACLS Graduate Internships on the Spiritual Infrastructure of the Future program. You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.



ACLS Graduate Internships on the Spiritual Infrastructure of the Future 2025

Qualifications:

- PhD student in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences, with a dissertation/research focus on the study of religion. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Strong research skills in qualitative methods, such as interviews, oral histories, and ethnographic approaches.
- Ability to work with basic quantitative tools, such as survey design, data entry, and simple descriptive analysis.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Experience or interest in working with Muslim and immigrant communities.
- Commitment to equity and cultural responsiveness in research.

Preferred

- Experience with public communication or community-engaged scholarship, especially making research accessible to wider audiences.
- Interest or experience in oral history collection, storytelling, or ethnographic research.
- Familiarity with basic web design or digital platforms for creating public-facing resources.
- Proficiency in Somali, Arabic, or another language spoken within Minnesota's Muslim communities is helpful but not required. We value alignment with our mission work and those with expressed interest in community engagement. A translator will be provided for the fellow in situations where they do not have language proficiency.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Graduate Internships on the Spiritual Infrastructure of the Future Program: <https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-graduate-internships-on-the-spiritual-infrastructure-of-the-future/>
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org).
- Application deadline: **Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 9 PM EST.**