



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

Position Title	Just Migration Communications Research Analyst
Organization	American Friends Service Committee
Location	Remote
Stipend	\$70,000 in the first year, \$72,000 in the second year
Benefits	Access to employer health insurance. Professional development funds provided by ACLS.
Start Date	September 2026

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

[The American Friends Service Committee](#) (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice, as a practical expression of faith in action. Drawing on continuing spiritual insights and working with people of many backgrounds, we nurture the seeds of change and respect for human life that transform social relations and systems.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Just Migration Communications Research Analyst will serve as a key member of AFSC's Communications Department, with a dotted-line reporting relationship to the U.S. Migration Director. The Communications Research Analyst will lead a portfolio of research and communications initiatives aimed at shaping public narratives around migration, detention, and deportation in the US.

The Communications Research Analyst will update and expand AFSC's previous research on public attitudes toward immigrants, migration, and detention and deportation. They will design new approaches to understanding public sentiment on these issues and develop strategies to shape opinion through effective language, messaging, and framing. In this capacity, the Communications Research Analyst will lead new message-testing and polling projects, manage relationships with research vendors, and translate findings into actionable insights that guide AFSC's national communications and advocacy efforts.

This position offers a unique opportunity to apply advanced academic research to real-world social change in a national nonprofit context. The Communications Research Analyst will work collaboratively with AFSC's six Migration Justice programs (NJ, NH, FL, CO, OR, and CA) to integrate study findings into local advocacy and outreach efforts, while contributing to AFSC's broader national communications strategy. These programs use varied methods and strategies to ensure immigrants are recognized as community leaders and are part of efforts to stop detentions and deportations, build community power, and advocate for fair and humane policies for immigrants at the local, state, and federal levels. Local work is complemented by national leadership that builds cohesiveness across programs and develops externally facing campaigns, materials, and opportunities to share AFSC's work more broadly. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Lead the design, implementation, and evaluation of a new national public opinion and message-testing study on immigration and immigrant justice, using surveys, focus groups, media analysis and other narrative research methods and building on AFSC's 2024 research.
- Collaborate with AFSC's Just Migration and Communications staff to develop a topic guide, survey questions, and messaging frames that explore public attitudes and identify effective language for shifting narratives.
- Manage the process of vetting, hiring, and supervising research vendors; oversee project timelines, deliverables, and methodological integrity.
- Analyze research findings and translate results into actionable insights that inform AFSC's national communications and advocacy strategies.

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

- Work with Communications and Just Migration teams to develop and implement a campaign plan grounded in research findings, ensuring consistent messaging across platforms.
- Supervise and coordinate the production of outreach materials and digital content that reflect tested messages and support the campaign's goals.
- Develop and monitor metrics to track campaign reach and engagement, including impressions, media coverage, and online performance.
- Conduct a follow-up study to assess changes in public attitudes about immigration and document lessons learned.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Understanding of narratives around immigration and immigrant justice issues.
- Ability to communicate complicated ideas in a clear and accessible way.
- Ability to work occasional evenings and/or weekends and to travel, up to 2 times per year.
- Ability to work effectively independently and within a team environment.
- Experience with standard Microsoft Office and related technology.
- Must be capable of working under tight time constraints in a high-volume environment with multiple priorities.
- Understanding of and commitment to the principles, concerns, and considerations, of AFSC in regard to issues of race, class, nationality, religion, age, gender and sexual orientation, and disabilities.
- Demonstrated ability to work and communicate with diverse staff.
- Commitment to Quaker values and testimonies. Understanding of and compatibility with the principles and philosophy of the American Friends Service Committee including non-violence and the belief in the intrinsic worth of every individual.
- Respect for and sensitivity to cultural, ethnic, racial, gender and religious diversity and familiarity with non-violent approaches to problem solving.
- Ability to organize, plan ahead and prioritize multiple tasks and meet deadlines.

Preferred:

- Fluent in English and Spanish.

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: 9 PM EDT, March 11, 2026.

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