



# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Senior Policy Associate
<b>Organization</b>	Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta
<b>Location</b>	Atlanta, GA
<b>Stipend</b>	\$72,000 in the first year, \$74,000 in the second year
<b>Benefits</b>	Access to employer health insurance. Professional development funds and relocation funds provided by ACLS.
<b>Start Date</b>	September 2026

## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

[Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta](#) (Advancing Justice-Atlanta) is the first nonprofit legal advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) communities in Georgia and the Southeast. Founded in 2010 as the Asian American Legal Advocacy Center (AALAC), our organization joined the Asian Americans Advancing Justice affiliation in 2014. Advancing Justice-Atlanta is organized around four programmatic departments: Policy Advocacy, Civic Engagement & Organizing (CEO), Impact Litigation, and Legal Services. Across these departments, our work includes nonpartisan voter mobilization, immigration legal services, anti-detention and deportation organizing, and civil rights defense among Georgia's immigrant AAPI and AMEMSA communities.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Policy Advocacy team at Advancing Justice-Atlanta shapes public policy that impacts AAPI, AMEMSA, and all immigrant communities in Georgia. Our team works alongside community partners to push back against harmful legislation and fights for a more inclusive Georgia with three key areas of focus: 1) advancing immigrant justice, 2) protecting immigrant rights and civil rights, and 3) defending voting rights and working to advance voter access for naturalized and language minority citizens. In the context of Georgia's rapidly growing immigrant population and escalating attacks on immigrants in our current political landscape, the Policy Advocacy team is prioritizing political education and expanding and prioritizing its reach through narrative research.

Supervised by the Policy Manager, Anar Parikh, the Senior Policy Associate will be tasked with adding strategic capacity to the team's goal of creating multiple, year-round opportunities for community engagement in local, state, and federal policy impacting AAPI and AMEMSA immigrants in Georgia across three key areas of responsibility:

1. **Political education curriculum design:** Working in collaboration with members of the Policy Advocacy and CEO teams, the Associate will build out a curriculum that integrates political education with topical material on issues including voting rights, immigrant justice, detention and deportation defense, and civil rights. The curriculum will be used by the Policy and CEO teams for leadership development and base-building programs. They will collate existing interdisciplinary resources *and* create original material on topics such as civics, AAPI & AMEMSA history, Ethnic Studies, community organizing, social justice, and immigrant rights.
2. **Narrative Research:** Working in collaboration with members of the Policy Advocacy, CEO, and Communications teams, the Associate will initiate a research project to identify and determine potential solutions to counteract harmful narratives, misinformation, and disinformation circulating in AAPI and AMEMSA communities. The Associate will play a key role in developing this research project, including gathering community feedback and engaging diverse audiences. The Associate will also produce research products (i.e. memos, reports, and/or fact sheets) that elucidate dominant narratives among AANHPI and AMEMSA Georgians and identify actionable solutions for shifting narratives and encouraging community engagement to

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advance immigrant justice and civil rights.

3. Policy Research and Campaign Development: The Associate will conduct policy research and analysis of local, state, and federal policies in areas of immigrant justice, voting rights, civil rights to support the Policy Advocacy team's legislative advocacy. Research will be used to create content for one-pagers, talking points, and related visuals as well as develop issue-based policy and organizing campaigns.

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

#### **Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Work with the Policy Manager and relevant cross-departmental collaborators to develop and execute political education curricula and narrative research campaign described above.
- Produce internal and external facing deliverables such as syllabi, lesson plans, memos, reports, and other content associated with the projects assigned above.
- Develop strategies and ideas for communicating policy issues to wide audiences through social media, in-person programming, and other creative modes of circulation.
- Conduct research and analysis related to carrying out Policy Advocacy team's legislative agenda.

#### **Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Ability to flexibly move between independent, research-driven work and collaborative environments.
- Experience with lesson planning and curriculum design with attention to diverse public audiences
- Experience planning, designing, analyzing, and presenting research results.
- Ability to work well under pressure, manage changing and multiple priorities, and with flexibility on some evenings and weekends.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including demonstrated ability to communicate complex ideas to audiences across age groups, varied linguistic backgrounds, and other areas of difference.

#### *Preferred:*

- Experience working or familiarity with AAPI/AMEMSA communities or low-income immigrant communities of color.
- Proficiency in an Asian language (e.g. Korean, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Arabic).
- Demonstrated commitment to immigrant justice and understanding how it intersects with social movements across race, class, and other axes of marginalization.

#### **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](https://ofa.acls.org))
- Application deadline: 9 PM EDT, March 11, 2026.

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