



# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Research Manager
<b>Organization</b>	Benton Institute for Broadband & Society
<b>Location</b>	Remote
<b>Stipend</b>	\$70,000 in the first year, \$72,000 in the second year
<b>Benefits</b>	Access to employer health insurance. Professional development funds provided by ACLS.
<b>Start Date</b>	September 2026

## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

[The Benton Institute for Broadband & Society](#) is a 44-year-old nonprofit working to make sure everyone in the United States can use and benefit from high quality, affordable broadband. We want to see affordable, high-quality, scalable broadband infrastructure everywhere in the U.S. and ensure that people are equipped with the devices and skills they need to make sure broadband serves them and helps them contribute to their communities. We strengthen local, state, and national leadership by providing the timely information and analysis, practical guidance, and advocacy needed to articulate and implement a Broadband for All agenda.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Research Manager will contribute to Benton's Broadband for All agenda by conducting research about the policies and practices that support digital inclusion. The Research Manager will report to the Research Director and will be additionally mentored by the Executive Director. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

## Responsibilities and tasks:

The Research Manager will design and lead at least one major collaborative research project, assist in managing a research fellowship program, and serve as a senior member of the research team, contributing to other projects about broadband and digital inclusion issues and mentoring junior colleagues.

- *Critical Digital Skills for Dignity in the Workforce*: The Research Manager will lead a collaborative project to critically examine digital skills frameworks and curricula for adult education, along with workforce development and labor research, to identify how digital skills figure into good jobs (defined as those that extend economic dignity to workers) and in relation to educational credentials. The Research Manager will utilize a variety of data sources and methods, including critical analysis of digital skills teaching materials, content analysis of job ads, and expert interviews with practitioners and policymakers, to develop three research briefs. The Benton team will assist the Research Manager in scoping the project, preparing the research briefs and a final report. The Research Manager will mentor junior Benton team members to collect and analyze data for this project. The Research Manager will also lead webinars to share recommendations for different stakeholders in digital skills training, such as workforce development agencies, adult education providers, and policymakers.
- *Digital Skills Policy and Practice Analysis Series*: The Research Manager will work with the Benton team to identify new developments related to the policy and/or practice of digital skills training and write short articles (2000 words or less) about them, totaling about 10 articles per year. The article series may include translating the findings of academic research for a non-academic audience, depending on the Research Manager's interests.
- *Benton Opportunity Fund Fellowship*: The Research Manager will support the Research Director in managing the Benton Opportunity Fund Fellowship, small research grants awarded through an open application call to researchers, advocates, and practitioners in the field. This will entail

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You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

working closely with the Research Director to oversee fellows' projects, help develop ideas for research briefs, review drafts of research briefs and other writing, and plan webinars and conference presentations to share Fellows' work. The Research Manager will also help design the next call for fellowship proposals and manage the application process.

- *Ongoing Research & Analysis*: The Research Manager will join the Benton team to identify notable developments in broadband and digital inclusion policy and practice, contribute to and review writing about them, and otherwise assist the team in its regular publication of news and analysis.
- *Research Capacity Support*: The Research Manager will work with the Research Director to support allied nonprofits, field-based practitioners, and junior colleagues providing guidance on research design, data analysis, and communication to strengthen the quality and impact of their work.
- *Academic-Practitioner Partnerships*: The Research Manager will work with the Research Director to identify and collaborate with appropriate public policy master's programs and other aligned academic programs to develop and supervise capstone projects that advance applied research and strengthen academic-practitioner partnerships.
- *New Project Development*: Once the Research Manager is well-integrated into the Benton team, we encourage the Research Manager to develop a new project in a specific area of interest. Leaders will assist the Research Manager in developing a structured project plan that identifies tasks, milestones, and collaboration with other team members.

#### **Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Demonstrated qualitative research skills, including data analysis, interpretation, and clear communication of findings.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to tailor messaging to different audiences.
- Ability to collaborate with external partners, including community-based organizations, policymakers, and advocacy groups.
- Project management aptitude (e.g., coordinating and completing the activities of a multi-stakeholder project).

#### *Preferred:*

- Experience or interest in digital inclusion, studies of infrastructure or labor.
- Experience providing constructive and collegial reviews of manuscripts.
- Experience writing for non-academic audiences.
- Mentorship or supervisory experience, particularly in guiding junior staff or students in development of research skills.

#### **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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