



# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Director of Creative Advocacy and Partnerships
<b>Organization</b>	The AjA Project
<b>Location</b>	San Diego, CA
<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

Based in the City Heights neighborhood of San Diego, [The AjA Project](#) (Autosuficiencia Junto con Apoyo/Supporting Self-Sufficiency) is an arts and social justice organization dedicated to engaging critically with issues that affect our community and realizing our collective liberation through participatory storytelling and the documentary arts. Since 2000, The AjA Project has advanced its mission through media arts workshops, fellowships, grassroots advocacy, and community-driven public art. In recent years, in light of rising anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies, we are intensifying our work to catalyze narrative change by elevating stories of lived experiences and building power and a sense of agency among San Diego's immigrant and refugee communities.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

AjA's creative advocacy initiatives harness the power of participatory arts to address issues of concern for local immigrant, refugee, and other historically marginalized communities. The Director of Creative Advocacy and Partnerships will play an essential role in informing, supporting, and expanding The AjA Project's art and advocacy work to amplify our programs' reach and impact. Reporting directly to the Executive Artistic Director, The Director will link AjA program staff, local coalitions, ally organizations, and refugee and immigrant communities who are disproportionately impacted by surveillance, criminalization, and civil liberties violations. This individual will conduct strategic analysis to deepen AjA's understanding of the policy landscape. They will use this analysis to develop creative advocacy responses at the city and county levels, through community engagement in town halls, oral history sharing, and public participatory art. The Director will focus on two key programs: 1) Countersurveillance, which empowers marginalized communities to use art and visual storytelling to challenge systems of surveillance, reclaim their narratives, and assert visibility on their own terms; and 2) Civil Liberties, which grounds in historical civil liberties violations, particularly the deportation of Japanese American Communities, to engage immigrant communities in using the media arts to explore, educate, and advocate for the current issues of concern. This is an ideal opportunity for someone who is passionate about arts-based social justice, creative advocacy, and applied participatory research in community settings. The Director of Creative Advocacy and Partnerships must be based in San Diego to attend AjA's in-person workshops and public art programs and build relationships with local partners. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

## Responsibilities and tasks:

- **Coalition Engagement & Strategic Analysis:**
  - Participate in local coalitions including Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology (TRUST SD), liaise with community allies, and stay up to date on related advocacy efforts; incorporate relevant learnings to inform *Countersurveillance and Civil Liberties*.
  - Cultivate and maintain relationships with local partners, advocacy groups, and stakeholders including Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA), Mid City Community Action Network, and others, ensuring bidirectional flow of information and insight.

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- Analyze policies, technologies, and issues that impact local residents, and summarize research to identify creative tactics for AjA's engagement and advocacy that will be further developed by AjA staff.
- **Creative Advocacy:**
  - Develop and implement creative advocacy responses at the city and county levels through community engagement in town halls, oral history sharing, and public participatory art.
  - Work in collaboration with program staff to integrate advocacy activities into AjA programming.
  - Assess learnings from implementation to iteratively inform future programming.
  - Support the program team in translating analysis and advocacy messaging into public-facing materials such as social media content, infographics, and zines.

### Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Strong written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills, with the ability to convey complex ideas clearly and accessibly to diverse audiences.
- Demonstrated ability to synthesize insights from primary and secondary sources.
- Strong project management and time management skills, including the ability to work independently, meet deadlines, and balance multiple priorities.
- Alignment with AjA's organizational values, including a commitment to equity, cultural humility, collaborative process, and the belief in the transformative power of art and storytelling.

### *Preferred:*

- Demonstrated commitment to community-engaged or applied research, including work that is collaborative, participatory, and grounded in lived experience.
- Experience with community-based organizations, coalitions, or advocacy groups, particularly those connected to refugee, immigrant, and/or otherwise historically marginalized communities.
- Experience in community organizing, especially in coalition-building roles.
- Familiarity with issue-based advocacy, especially related to immigrant and refugee rights, surveillance, digital privacy, and civil liberties.
- Proficiency in qualitative research methods such as ethnography, oral history, or archival research.
- Interest or experience in arts-based advocacy and creative methods such as documentary or media arts, visual art, public art, participatory storytelling, etc.
- Experience designing or facilitating community-based education, especially informal learning spaces like workshops, teach-ins, or participatory arts programs.
- Relevant linguistic/cultural familiarity (e.g., Spanish, Arabic, Somali, Vietnamese, Swahili, etc.).

### 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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# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Just Migration Communications Research Analyst
<b>Organization</b>	American Friends Service Committee
<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 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.

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- 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**

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# 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**

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# 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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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.

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# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Research & Impact Manager
<b>Organization</b>	The Center for Cultural Power
<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 [Center for Cultural Power](#) (Cultural Power) empowers BIPOC artist disruptors and culture bearers to envision and engineer the safe and equitable future we all aspire to create. Cultural Power resources and connects these leaders to each other and to movements, supporting and training them using tested and scalable narrative and culture strategy models, and amplifying their most impactful work. As a leader in the cultural strategy field, Cultural Power has been able to take risks, test our models with key communities, regions, and on a national scale, and create a cultural strategy network that unites communities with values-aligned intersectional stories across racial justice issues, geographies, and sectors. We create a thriving ecosystem for creative leaders dedicated to disrupting the status quo. And, we root our work in communities that bear the brunt of systemic inequities to uplift their voices and stories and help promote their solutions.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Research & Impact Manager will play an integral role in implementing Cultural Power's new Strategic Plan to create a vibrant, pluralistic cultural future where historically marginalized artists shape narratives that build belonging, solidarity, and a thriving multi-racial democracy. This position will work with the Programs, Communications, and Development teams across Cultural Power's focus areas, including racial, gender, climate, and migrant justice, civic engagement, and health equity. Reporting to the Director of Research and Impact within the Programs team, the Research & Impact Manager will serve as an embedded, culturally responsive researcher and work collaboratively with staff across the organization.

The Research & Impact Manager will contribute to three main areas of the Strategic Plan:

1. Facilitate narrative alignment across programs and departments. This role will stay up-to-date and advise the organization on the latest narrative research, and synthesize and enact learnings from staff, artists and culture bearer participants, and audience response research on what's working well, and uncover the growing edges where Cultural Power's narrative system and training programs can push the field in new directions.
2. Evaluate and strengthen the CultureStrike Network, a new initiative that brings together thousands of artist disruptors, culture bearers, and movement groups across regions and indigenous communities under shared cultural, narrative, and civic engagement strategies — building collective infrastructure for transformational social change.
3. Author research-based impact storytelling about Cultural Power's programs to help the field understand how cultural and narrative strategy, centered on values-aligned artists and culture bearers, can broaden public imagination, and shift mindsets, behavior and policy towards a just, inclusive, multiracial democracy.

This role will collaborate with the Communications and Development teams to highlight the impact of narrative strategy work. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

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**Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Lead the annual update of Cultural Power's Narrative Alignment Report, incorporating staff and participant learnings, and narrative predictions from the field.
- Support the Director of Research & Impact to advise program staff on how to implement the Narrative Tracking System, to assess how art and cultural activations reach, engage, and mobilize audiences and communities, and contribute to narrative tipping points over time.
- Thought leadership based on the Fellow's interests and area(s) of expertise, for example: research reports, op-eds, conference or panel presentations, building relationships with think tanks and academic institutions, etc.
- Support audience response testing (survey design, analysis, and reporting).
- Develop and implement tools to track the CultureStrike Network's metrics of success, including network health, media and civic engagement, and coalition and membership growth.
- Conduct culturally responsive research with artists and culture bearers, which may include online participant observation, interviews, focus groups and surveys, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, and collective sensemaking sessions.

**Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Qualitative research skills and experience or interest in culturally responsive, participatory and equitable approaches to research & evaluation.
- Strong writing skills and the ability to distill complex information and data for diverse audiences.
- Cultural fluency: experience working directly with or as part of institutions that serve underrepresented communities.
- Strong project management skills and the ability to manage large projects by demonstrating initiative, attention to detail, and receptivity to feedback.

*Preferred:*

- Knowledge of one or more of Cultural Power's focus areas: racial, gender, climate, migrant justice, civic engagement, and health equity.
- Experience or interest in the role of artists, culture bearers, media, narrative and popular culture in social movements and in social change.
- Experience using quantitative methods, such as designing surveys and interpreting survey results.

**APPLICATIONS**

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# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Policy & Research Communications Specialist
<b>Organization</b>	College Access: Research & Action
<b>Location</b>	New York, NY
<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

[College Access: Research & Action](#) (CARA)'s mission is to ensure that first-generation college students, low-income students, and students of color have the knowledge and support necessary to enroll in and persist through post-secondary education. While these students need opportunities to learn about college and career pathways, most public high schools and institutions of higher education are not structured to provide this assistance. CARA's peer-to-peer programs, whole school coaching, and research & policy initiatives work to address these inequities. We work with high schools, community-based organizations, and higher education institutions to shift postsecondary guidance from being an "enrichment for some" to an "entitlement for all."

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

Along with our direct-service work with students, schools, and nonprofit partners, CARA creates widespread impact through a range of research, policy, and communications activities. Our goal is to illuminate barriers, share best practices, and bring the voices of those most impacted by local, state, and national policies – practitioners & young people – into conversations that shape policy at all these levels. The Policy & Research Communications Specialist will help amplify CARA's impact by helping develop our strategic communications plan, telling CARA's story across mediums, and translating our research into more accessible formats. Reporting to the Director of Policy Research, the Policy & Research Communications Specialist will work collaboratively across CARA's Research & Policy and Development teams on three main projects:

- **Analyzing policy communications and refining our strategic communications plan:** The Policy & Research Communications Specialist will work collaboratively with CARA's Research & Policy and Development teams to refine our communications strategy across the organization. The Specialist will take a lead in analyzing our current communications and that of peer organizations to identify effective practices and key audiences. They will then help execute the plan that comes out of this research. This could involve activities such as power-mapping the organizations and policymakers we want to be reaching, expanding to a new platform, or working to deepen relationships with journalists across a range of relevant news outlets.
- **Telling CARA's story across mediums:** CARA's communications span multiple programs and audiences, from research for policy makers to program impact stories aimed at educators and funders. In collaboration with the Director of Grants & Strategic Funding, the Policy & Research Communications Specialist will create content to coherently share the story of CARA's varied work across platforms (i.e. our newsletters, reports, & different social media platforms) in a way that can reach more people while being sensitive to distinct audiences.
- **Translating research into actionable tools:** CARA regularly publishes original research reports. For each report CARA produces, the Policy & Research Communications Specialist will create at least one additional product to translate the research findings into a more usable format or widen the research's reach. This could include creating slide decks to share research findings, writing op-eds or blog posts for external publications, or creating practitioner and policy toolkits in collaboration with program staff.

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This role leverages the humanistic skills of interpretive analysis and clear and creative writing, including analyzing narratives, synthesizing complex ideas, and translating evidence for diverse audiences. The role provides an opportunity to work across multiple functions of a nonprofit organization, create a variety of different external-facing communications, and help refine our communications strategy and voice. There will also be opportunities to present at local and national policy conferences, contribute to grant funding reports, and deepen understanding of the postsecondary access and education policy fields. This position will prepare the fellow for communications, policy, and development positions in education and human services-related nonprofits, government organizations, and think tanks. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

### **Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Conduct research on the efficacy of past CARA communications efforts and the approaches of peer organizations. Collaborate with the Research & Policy and Development teams to use this research to develop an organization-wide communications plan.
- Create content to support CARA's organization-wide communications. This may include writing stories for CARA's monthly newsletter (this involves generating ideas, conducting interviews, writing, and securing additional photos or video to complement stories), brainstorming and creating social media content, and contributing to impact reports.
- For each of the 2-4 original research publications CARA produces each year, work with the Director of Policy Research (and program teams, as necessary) to create at least one additional written product, such as a slide deck, op-ed, blog post, or toolkit. As needed, provide additional support on research projects (i.e. conducting interviews & writing).
- Work with the Director of Policy Research to place written pieces in external publications and strategize to reach new audiences.
- Collaborate to present CARA research at local and national policy conferences (ideally 1-2 over the fellowship term).

### **Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Outstanding analytical and writing skills, including experience executing writing projects from initial concept stage to final drafting.
- Ability to write for a variety of audiences with sensitivity to voice, context, and representation.
- Ability to read extensively and synthesize information to learn independently about new topics.
- Ability to talk with students and educators about sensitive topics.
- Ability to work collaboratively with different staff & teams (i.e. program, development, research).

### *Preferred:*

- Experience with communications, media strategy, or narrative analysis.
- Lived, professional, or research experience connected to the educational experiences of low-income, first-generation, and BIPOC students.
- Experience with content creation involving photo, video, or infographics is a plus.

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



# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Curriculum & Impact Research Manager
<b>Organization</b>	Destiny Arts Center
<b>Location</b>	Oakland, CA
<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

[Destiny Arts Center](#) (Destiny) is a leading creative youth development institution with experience working with Oakland children, families, and communities since 1988. Destiny Arts Center’s mission is to inspire and ignite social change through the arts. We bring high-quality arts programming grounded in culturally relevant movement (e.g., hip hop dance, traditional African dance forms, martial arts) to young people from low-income and historically under-resourced communities for free or at a reduced cost. Rooted in violence prevention philosophies and our “Warrior’s Code” (Love, Care, Respect, Honor, Responsibility, Peace), Destiny’s programs use the arts to foster safe, peaceful, and healthy environments, supporting young people as they develop their skills as artists, global citizens, and advocates for peace in their communities and beyond. Through school and community programs and classes offered at our North Oakland center, Destiny reaches over 5000 students in Oakland and the Bay Area annually. Destiny programs are open to all youth, and we are particularly committed to ensuring that low-income youth of color in Oakland have equitable access to the arts.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

Destiny Arts Center seeks a Curriculum & Impact Research Manager to lead the codification of our curriculum for our slate of arts-based youth development programs. This role will clearly articulate the intended outcomes of our work, while mapping how young people progress and matriculate through our programs. The Research Manager will work closely with teaching artists, program staff, and organizational leadership to translate complex program pathways into clear, compelling frameworks that inform practice, communicate impact to funders and stakeholders, and strengthen long-term program design and evaluation efforts. In the second year the fellow would help to socialize and integrate these models into the various departments in the organization and ensure that practices are informed by the models. The Research Manager would be supervised by the Deputy Director of Programs. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

## Responsibilities and tasks:

- Work with Destiny’s leadership team to lead the codification of curriculum for a suite of arts-based youth development programs.
- Work with the program team to analyze existing curriculum, teaching practices, and student progression to codify program structures and learning pathways.
- Identify and define short-, medium-, and long-term program outcomes aligned with organizational mission and youth development best practices.
- Map how students matriculate through programs, including entry points, progression, and transitions to advanced opportunities.
- Produce polished written reports and visual models for internal use, funder communications, and potential publication.
- Engage with staff throughout Destiny to provide recommendations for evaluation tools and outcome measurement approaches.
- Collaborate with program staff, leadership, and external partners to validate findings and ensure accuracy.

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- Support in the implementation of the models to the program and teaching staff in collaboration with Program Directors and Managers.

### **Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Ability to build trust and collaborate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Passion for Destiny Arts Center's mission and values.
- Well-organized, detail-oriented, flexible and able to handle a variety of tasks.
- Strong research and analytical skills, including both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Experience working with youth development, education, or arts-based organizations.
- Proven ability to translate complex concepts into accessible language and visuals.
- Excellent writing, editing, and communication skills.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, especially in communicating data to non-technical audiences.
- Commitment to racial equity, community accountability, and youth empowerment.
- Strong facilitation skills to lead collaborative model-building sessions with diverse stakeholders.
- Understanding of equity-centered practices.
- Capacity to work independently while managing multiple projects and deadlines.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to build trust with both youth and adult collaborators.

### *Preferred:*

- Familiarity with arts education, youth development, or wraparound services.
- Knowledge of culturally responsive programming.
- Knowledge of arts-based youth development pedagogy and curriculum design.
- Experience conducting qualitative and quantitative research, including focus groups and surveys.

### **APPLICATIONS**

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# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Impact & Evaluation Specialist
<b>Organization</b>	El Tímpano
<b>Location</b>	San Francisco, CA
<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

[El Tímpano](#)—Spanish for “eardrum”—is an award-winning civic media organization designed to inform, engage, and amplify the voices of the Bay Area’s Latino and indigenous Mayan immigrants. Since 2017, we have worked in collaboration with hundreds of immigrants and dozens of local partners to design community-centered approaches to civic engagement and to ensure that immigrants have the information they need to make informed decisions, take action in their communities, and have their voices heard.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

El Tímpano is seeking an Impact & Evaluation Specialist to strengthen our capacity to measure, evaluate, and communicate the impact of our work. Since our founding, El Tímpano has developed various strategies designed to advance our mission and create a more equitable information ecosystem for the Bay Area’s Latino and Mayan immigrants. They include in-depth reporting, Spanish- and Maya Mam-language SMS communications, creative place-based programming, disinformation defense workshops, partnerships with civic agencies, and more. While we track various data points and indicators of the impact of each of those strategies, we lack a consistent and systematic approach to documenting, evaluating, and communicating our impact.

The Impact & Evaluation Specialist will work across our organization to understand the impact and outcomes of our strategies and develop systems and approaches for tracking that impact. They will be responsible for collecting and analyzing those metrics and communicating the impact of our work. They will also conduct community-engaged research projects that use a variety of approaches to understand and communicate the needs, hopes, and concerns of the immigrant communities El Tímpano serves. The Impact & Evaluation Specialist will work directly under the Chief of Programs & Strategy and will collaborate with colleagues across the organization. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

## Responsibilities and tasks:

- **Evaluation design & implementation:**
  - Develop systems and approaches for tracking the impact of El Tímpano’s work across a variety of programs and strategies.
  - Collaborate with teams to support the implementation and iteration of impact evaluation.
  - Lead the gathering and analysis of impact metrics, both quantitative and qualitative.
  - Work with El Tímpano’s leadership and teams to utilize impact evaluation to inform strategy at the inception of organizational projects.
- **Communication:**
  - Write reports on the impact and learnings of El Tímpano’s work, including an annual impact report as well as timely communications for external and internal audiences.
  - Create and lead presentations and discussions on the impact and learnings of El Tímpano’s work for El Tímpano staff as well as for external peers and other stakeholders.
- **Research:**
  - Lead up to three community-engaged research projects per year, including information ecosystem assessments and SMS community surveys. Building on El Tímpano’s

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experience, the fellow will lead the design, analysis, and reporting.

**Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Ability to weave research and data with strong narratives to tell a compelling story.
- Detail-oriented research skills. Experience in vetting a variety of sources, drawing in outside expertise, and synthesizing complex ideas for diverse audiences.
- Excellent interpersonal, verbal, and written communication, including the ability to communicate in diverse environments with colleagues, community members, and external peers through active listening, empathy, and respect.
- Comfortable in a start-up environment where staff may need to build things from scratch and adapt as the organization grows and evolves.
- Ability to manage project timelines and document progress.
- Passion for El Tímpano’s mission of informing, engaging, and amplifying the voices of Latino and Mayan immigrants.

*Preferred:*

- Spanish fluency.
- Experience working with nonprofits and with immigrant communities.
- Familiarity with participatory or community-engaged research.

**APPLICATIONS**

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# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Food Systems and Grocery Policy Researcher
<b>Organization</b>	Institute for Local Self-Reliance
<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

Founded in 1974, the [Institute for Local Self-Reliance](#) (ILSR) is a national research and technical assistance organization that constructs the foundation and frame upon which communities can take charge of their local resources, their economies, and their environmental future. ILSR challenges concentrated economic and political power, and instead champions an approach in which ownership is broadly distributed, institutions are humanly scaled, and decision-making is accountable to communities.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

ILSR seeks a Food Systems and Grocery Policy Researcher to illuminate how shifts in public policy have reshaped the nation's food landscape — and to help envision more democratic, community-rooted alternatives. Nearly 40 million Americans live in communities that are both low-income and lacking a grocery store. These so-called “food deserts” are often attributed to poverty or ruralness, but this overlooks a deeper story: a pivotal policy shift in the 1980s, when the government dramatically scaled back enforcement of antitrust laws. The abandonment of the Robinson-Patman Act, which prohibits suppliers from giving big chains preferential pricing, set off a far-reaching restructuring of local food economies and contributed to the disappearance of tens of thousands of independent grocers.

ILSR's strategy begins at the grassroots. We support communities in resisting corporate predation and developing local solutions. We then use those on-the-ground stories to shape and drive federal and state policy change. This approach has yielded major gains. We've helped hundreds of communities block predatory dollar store chains and adopt policies to support local grocers, while our research and advocacy have reshaped media narratives and spurred renewed antitrust enforcement.

We seek a fellow to help us deepen our work in the food sector. The Researcher will gather and interpret stories from affected communities; situate these stories within broader historical, political, and cultural contexts; and help translate these insights into public writing, narrative framing, and policy solutions. A core focus will be researching how historical forces created today's grocery landscape and documenting how communities are responding. This work will involve interviews, close reading of public documents, and interpretive analysis of both qualitative and numerical information. The Researcher will also explore promising examples — particularly cooperative and community-rooted models — that demonstrate how different choices can rebuild resilience and local control. At a time when people are eager for actionable solutions, the fellow will collaborate with the team to develop new policy ideas at the local, state, and federal levels.

The Researcher will be anchored in ILSR's Independent Business team, helping to translate research into action by producing compelling, accessible writing; creating educational and storytelling materials; building relationships in the field; presenting at meetings and conferences; supporting our communications team in developing media stories and messaging; and collaborating with advocacy staff to engage directly with policymakers and allies. The Researcher would report to the team's Associate Director for Research. The role offers the opportunity to develop expertise on food systems and antimonopoly policy while gaining practical experience in making research actionable, communicating to a variety of audiences, and developing policy ideas that advance economic justice. The Researcher

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will also develop connections in the antimonopoly and food justice movements. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week..

### **Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Develop a strong grounding in how shifts in antitrust policy have shaped food systems and local retail over time.
- Conduct qualitative and interpretive research to understand the effects of grocery consolidation on food access, consumer prices, and community well-being.
- Craft compelling stories that convey complex ideas and powerful narratives in creative ways. These stories may take the form of short videos, story maps, written pieces, or social media content.
- Identify and develop case studies that can highlight community-based solutions and support advocacy strategies.
- Present at meetings and conferences, help build awareness of antitrust policy among food justice advocates and local policymakers, and cultivate relationships and allies for our advocacy.
- Analyze historical and current policy trends at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Produce resources, including policy briefs, toolkits, and articles.
- Collaborate with ILSR's communications staff to create social media, audio, and video content that lifts up key findings and community voices.
- Support our advocacy team in engaging policymakers and participate in coalition efforts to promote reform.
- Will require occasional travel in the U.S. The team and larger staff gather in person about once or twice a year. There may also be a few trips per year related to the specific role, for example, attending a conference or conducting in-person interviews. Travel will be covered.

### **Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Excellent writing and storytelling skills, with a strong interest in translating complex ideas into clear, compelling public-facing prose and communicating ideas to different audiences across an evolving media landscape.
- Experience conducting research, including synthesizing diverse primary and secondary sources, close reading of texts, and the ability to interpret and contextualize qualitative information.
- Interest in food systems, economic justice, and community power.
- Comfort working with basic numerical information to support interpretive insights; no advanced statistical methods are needed.
- Ability to both work with a team and work independently within the parameters of the project.

### **APPLICATIONS**

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# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Senior Researcher
<b>Organization</b>	International Accountability Project
<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 [International Accountability Project](#) (IAP) is an international human and environmental rights organization that works with communities, civil society and social movements to change how today's development is done. IAP is part of a global movement, rooted in the aspirations of people for justice and to thrive today and tomorrow. Learn more about IAP's plans and priorities: [IAP Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#)

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Senior Researcher at the International Accountability Project makes important contributions to the organization's global advocacy and campaign work on Climate Justice, Defenders and the use of public and community-led data by leading and advising on IAP's research, training and advocacy projects and materials. The Senior Researcher will join colleagues and civil society partners to co-create and implement campaign and communications strategies, ultimately to achieve the organization's goals for development justice. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

### Responsibilities and tasks:

- While centering community priorities and voices, write and contribute to reports and articles on human and environmental rights to 1) advance community-led campaigns around the world and 2) advance changes to the policy and practice of development actors.
- For advocacy purposes, advise, liaise and conduct impactful research using existing community-led research and development finance data from the Early Warning System.
- Following community priorities, support the creation and implementation of IAP's national, regional and international campaign strategies towards governments, companies and investors.
- In collaboration with the IAP colleagues and global partners, strategize, build and sustain relationships with social movements, civil society organizations and community organizers to support community-led development priorities globally. in the region.
- Utilize the regional and international human rights systems for strategic policy work to realize the Right to Development. Develop and coordinate the submission of individual complaints, case studies and opinions to these bodies.
- Act as a primary contact and representative of IAP in policy meetings and at civil society conferences.
- National and international travel related to the position is possible, but not required.
- Further campaign goals by writing or contributing to blog articles, public statements, news and at least 1 academic article as a representative of IAP.
- Attend weekly staff meetings and internal strategic and programmatic calls.
- Become an active member of two internal IAP programmatic Working Groups.
- As part of the broader movement for development justice, serves as a coordinator in two allied networks, for example on climate justice or the protection of rights defenders.
- Provide updates for monthly programmatic reports, and annual donor reports and perform a range of operational work, including liaising with contractors and interpreters, managing budgets and finances, and other tasks, as needed.

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- Support IAP fundraising and donor relationships by contributing to donor meetings and related proposals and reports.

### **Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- A globally conscious person with knowledge of international human and environmental rights.
- Experience and understanding in at least one primary topics: Climate Justice Defenders or using data for advocacy purposes.
- Project management skills, including managing project timelines.
- Teaching and/or facilitation experience (ideally virtually).
- Ability to coordinate and actively engage in advocacy meetings with representatives of civil society, government, companies, and/or investors.
- Competency in multiple research approaches and analyses.
- Experience with data management or a willingness to learn.
- Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to build and sustain relationships with a diverse set of partners and colleagues.
- Advanced writing, speaking, and listening levels of English are required.
- Humility, intellectual curiosity, and humor.
- Self-starter with strong organizational and time-management skills.
- Ability to work independently and resourcefully, and in close coordination with a global remote team.
- Ability to attend meetings to accommodate different time zones.

### *Preferred:*

- Experience as a community mobilizer for human and environmental rights campaigns.
- Skilled facilitator and trainer with community organizers, local groups, and social movements as well as a range of civil society organizations operating at the local, national, regional, and international levels.
- Experience or familiarity with participatory action research.
- Experience developing presentation and facilitation plans.
- Experience in and understanding of Indigenous Peoples and traditional people's rights and Gender Justice.
- Advanced writing, speaking, and listening levels in a second language, Spanish is preferred.
- Advanced writing, speaking, and listening levels in a third language are welcomed.

### **APPLICATIONS**

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# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Program Evaluation and Research Coordinator
<b>Organization</b>	Operation Shoestring
<b>Location</b>	Jackson, MS
<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

[Operation Shoestring](#) (OS) invests directly in the children, families, and neighborhoods of Jackson, Mississippi, aspiring to transformative change by supporting student success, providing family-centered programming, and cultivating community. We envision a thriving community for children and families where we all rise together united in purpose and prosperity. For nearly 60 years, we've provided safe spaces for kids and families in order to help create communities. Operation Shoestring primarily serves the Georgetown, Virden Addition, Mid-City and Midtown neighborhoods in the heart of central Jackson, just a stone's throw from Mississippi's capitol building. We provide year-round academic, social and emotional support to children from pre-K – 8th grade, while supporting and providing resources to their families. We currently serve nearly 200 school-aged children from approximately 160 low-income households. Our work features evidence-based literacy instruction and academic remediation with licensed teachers, as well as horizon-expanding opportunities. We partner annually with dozens of organizations and many volunteers to help support the children and families we serve. These strategic partnerships with community stakeholders allow us to offer our families an ever-expanding list of services including financial literacy workshops, maternal health supports, social services, and more. Through surveys, assessments, and frequent phone calls, we stay in close contact with families in our neighborhoods and create programming that is responsive to their needs, dreams, and desires

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Program Evaluation and Research Coordinator will work strategically with all full-time OS staff to provide program evaluation support, research, data analysis, and to communicate details of evidence-based practices for programs. This position will primarily gather and document service recipient and wider community feedback and associated data, while identifying opportunities for greater community impact. This position will also organize existing OS practices into a more clearly documented and accessible format that will allow OS to consistently implement and finetune programming while identifying potential innovations. Work conducted by the Coordinator will assist us in deepening our community development work and help us complete our facility and community masterplanning. A key component of this position is to research connections between community and service recipient feedback and existing best practices, policy, and academic research, and lay the groundwork for future projects such as generating spaces for community-resident advocacy and creating programming to foster advocacy skills. This position will assist OS in implementing the family and community components of OS's strategic plan while assisting OS in evaluation of its current efforts agency-wide. The skills fostered by a humanistic education (research, interdisciplinary thinking, communication, etc.) are vital to this role, which involves sharing data findings and ideating real-world applications of research with service recipients. This position is envisioned as one that all fields of humanities and interpretive social sciences can thrive in—OS will assist in procuring any data or evaluation training required for a candidate to succeed.

This role is envisioned as research-focused and iterative with clear lines of communication to community stakeholders and to constituents served by OS. As such, this position reports to the Communications Director while also serving as a liaison to our constituents and wider Jackson community. OS services are designed to help support the spiritual, emotional, and social needs of

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people, and work actively toward social, economic, and racial equity. OS works hand in hand with service recipients, neighborhood residents, faith communities, businesses, policymakers, and interested individuals to carry out our current model of providing year-round academic, social, and emotional support to children. This fellow would add capacity to this work by providing data and assessments that will enhance our year-round services to a marginalized community. Through methods such as identifying best practices, compiling family program curriculum ideas, research, and focus groups, this fellow will assist OS in delivering high-quality programming and services to families in our core communities. This fellow will also connect their humanities experience to our work through creative problem solving, community presentations, literature reviews, and other applications of a well-rounded humanities education. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

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

- Research and present best practices for services in coordination with the OS executive team.
- Document and develop with OS's current strategic plan a cohesive calendar and curriculum for family programming.
- Solicit and document feedback from community residents, service participants, volunteers, and other stakeholders and design the tools to measure this feedback.
- Support Communications Director and Development Coordinator via research and information gleaned from community feedback.
- Develop initial plans for community advocacy programs
- Support OS staff in pursuing goals outlined in strategic plan and create assessment products for them to evaluate effectiveness of their efforts.

#### **Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Able to pass a Mississippi State Department of Health background check.(Required for OS's childcare licensure)
- Experience in qualitative data analysis.
- Strong communication skills with a variety of audiences.
- Strong commitment to educational and economic equity.
- Ability to negotiate conflict in a productive manner.
- Reliable personal transportation and auto liability insurance.

#### *Preferred:*

- Experience interviewing constituents and/or conducting ethnographies.
- Experience or prior academic work relevant to children, education and/or social work.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

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# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Research and Policy Associate
<b>Organization</b>	Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration
<b>Location</b>	Washington, DC
<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

The [Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that mobilizes college and university leaders to address immigration issues impacting higher education, our students, campuses, communities, and the nation. Our national membership has grown to more than 580 two-year and four-year public and private institutions, serving more than 5 million students in 42 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico. We represent a broad coalition committed to ensuring that immigrant-origin, refugee, and international students can access, succeed in, and contribute to higher education and the workforce.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Presidents' Alliance seeks a Research and Policy Associate to join our policy team in Washington, D.C. Reporting to the Manager of Research and Policy and working closely with the Director of Policy and Strategy, the Deputy Director of Federal Policy, and the Director of State Policy and Legal Strategy, the Associate will support research, data analysis, and policy analysis that furthers the Alliance's strategic priorities.

The Fellow will support the Presidents' Alliance work by (1) Drafting policy briefs, explainers, and memos that analyze the impact of state and federal policy developments on undocumented, refugee, and international students; (2) Synthesizing research and data pertinent to the experiences of these populations in higher education and the workforce, helping shape evidence-based policy recommendations; and (3) Developing messaging campaigns that advocate for inclusive and equitable access to academic and career pathways for international and immigrant-origin populations.

The Presidents' Alliance office space is based at 740 15th Street N.W. Washington, D.C.; however, the work of the organization is conducted primarily remotely and all employees work remotely, though some travel to member campuses, conferences, and events may be required. Because this position focuses on policy, the Fellow must be based in the Washington D.C. area. Daily work responsibilities will be conducted remotely; the Fellow will be expected to be available for several in-person meetings per month, including biweekly policy team meetings and ad hoc meetings and events with key partners and policymakers. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

## Responsibilities and tasks:

- Develop resources that communicate the impact of federal and state policies on international and immigrant-origin communities in higher education.
  - Assist with drafting weekly member updates, background research, editing, and review of policy briefs, explainers, memos and FAQs on policy developments affecting focal populations.
  - Draft talking points and advocacy tools for Presidents' Alliance staff and member campuses to support engagement with press, communities, and policymakers.
  - Work with coalition partners, as appropriate, to co-develop resources, amplify shared policy goals, and coordinate joint advocacy efforts.

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- Serve as a thought partner to Alliance staff, aligning research findings with policy strategy and communications priorities.
- Participate in management of data and research portfolio.
  - Work with the Manager of Research and Policy to update data on the Higher Ed Immigration Portal.
  - Identify opportunities for original data and story collection that support policy and litigation efforts. Examples may include collecting testimony from students, faculty and staff; organizing opportunities for campuses to share data and impact stories; and conducting background research to support litigation efforts.
- Advance knowledge of Presidents' Alliance materials and resources through event coordination and public messaging.
  - Support planning, coordination, and implementation of virtual webinars and briefings.
  - Lead development of conference proposals and represent the Alliance on virtual panels and at relevant conferences. Some travel may be required.
  - Support planning and implementation of Alliance events, including policy roundtables, strategy sessions, and the 2027 SUCCESS Convening.
  - Develop materials for social media, press statements, and digital engagement to elevate the Alliance's voice.

#### **Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Excellent research, writing, analytical and communication skills, including the ability to quickly understand complex issues and communicate this knowledge to external stakeholders.
- Experience working with higher education and community stakeholders, including the ability to negotiate competing priorities and consider layers of impact and engagement.
- Time management and project management skills with the ability to prioritize tasks, deliver high-quality, accurate work, and meet multiple deadlines.
- Basic familiarity with descriptive quantitative analysis, including the ability to translate quantitative research for non-academic audiences.
- Ability to work independently, solve problems creatively, and collaborate effectively with colleagues, member institutions, partners, and Presidents' Alliance team members.
- Familiarity and ease with software/tech (e.g. Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Zoom).

#### *Preferred:*

- Policy expertise in refugee resettlement, undocumented student advocacy, immigration and higher education, and/or international education.
- Experience working on strategic messaging campaigns or developing narrative materials that communicate complex topics to a range of audiences.

#### **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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# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Manager of Academic Engagement and Impact
<b>Organization</b>	Washington Center for Equitable Growth
<b>Location</b>	Remote (must be located in DC, MD, VA, PA, NY, or MI)
<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 [Washington Center for Equitable Growth](#) is a nonprofit research and grantmaking organization dedicated to advancing evidence-backed ideas and policies that promote strong, stable, and broad-based economic growth. Equitable Growth engages with academics and policymakers to better understand economic inequality in the United States and its impact on economic growth. Important elements of Equitable Growth's mission include grantmaking to academic economists and other social scientists to support new research on inequality, mobility, growth, and related issues, as well as work to apply the best available academic evidence to the policy world. Building a stronger bridge between academics and the policy community and elevating researchers and their work with the news media are both key to our work, with the goal of making new research relevant, accessible, and informative to the policymaking process.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

Equitable Growth has an immediate opening for a Manager of Academic Engagement and Impact. There will be three primary responsibilities for this role. The first is helping to think about how to more deeply engage select academics from our network in policy and media debates, advance them along an engagement ladder, and create sustainable ecosystem infrastructure, in particular in support of our Nonresident Scholars Program. The second is to help track and evaluate the impact of past funded research on both academic literature and broader public discourse, and make that information more readily accessible within the organization to support cross-team engagement of our academic network. Finally, this role will help to develop and disseminate content and resources that distill research findings for policymakers. Policy areas include: macroeconomic growth, fiscal policy, labor markets, market structure and competition, family economic security, human capital and well-being, and drivers of upward mobility. Below is a list of potential responsibilities. The overall balance of responsibilities will depend in part on candidate expertise and interests. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

## Responsibilities and tasks:

- Develop, plan and implement trainings, attuned to the culture and incentives of academia, including differences across disciplines, to engage network members and develop their skills. This may be in collaboration with the Communications & Marketing or Policy & Advocacy teams, and/or with partner organizations. Training topics will be need-based but may include media training, how to translate research findings for non-academic audiences, how to engage in the policymaking process, how to identify policy-relevant research questions, how to build skills applicable to temporary positions in public service.
- Gather, synthesize, and provide feedback to participating network members to foster skill development.
- In collaboration with other teams, support the development of metrics of success; develop and implement evaluations of programming to assess effectiveness and make improvements.
- With the support of the Director, Academic Programs, develop relationships with key organizations and experts to identify opportunities for shared learning or collaboration.
- Support core programming, in-person and virtual events, and content intended to build connections among scholars and between scholars and non-academic audiences.

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- Synthesize research and support the creation of broad audience content that distills research findings and elevates key takeaways, ideally introducing strategies founded on an understanding of how narratives around power affect political institutions, participation, and outcomes.
- Support the development of metrics to assess the impact of funded research on the research literature and on policy.
- Support the development of internal resources that distill findings from funded research and expertise of network members to inform organizational work and network engagement strategies.
- Help tell the story of the impact Equitable Growth's funding has had on the scholars it supports, the research literature on inequality and growth, and on policy.

### **Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Experience engaging with academics and an understanding of academic culture, job ladders, and incentives and an awareness of differences across disciplines.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to synthesize complex, discrete but related pieces of content into clear and compelling narrative form.
- Ability to prioritize, meet deadlines, work independently, and manage multiple concurrent projects.
- Comfortable with creating and maintaining project plans.

### *Preferred:*

- Demonstrated project management, networking and administrative skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and proven ability to work across departments.
- Experience in grassroots organizing or organizer training.
- Working knowledge of current economic policy issues.
- Understanding of the role that research and evidence play in policymaking.
- Willingness to travel approximately 1-2 times a year. Travel will be covered.

EEO: The Washington Center for Equitable Growth is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws. The Washington Center for Equitable Growth is actively committed to promoting and maintaining the importance of diversity to its work. We encourage everyone across the spectrums of race, ethnicity, nationality, ability, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, and religion to apply.

### **APPLICATIONS**

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# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

<b>Position Title</b>	Health Policy Analyst
<b>Organization</b>	Western North Carolina Community Health Services
<b>Location</b>	Asheville, NC
<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

The [Western North Carolina Community Health Services](#) (WNCCHS) Mission is to provide high-quality and life-enriching health care to all people living within our region, regardless of ability to pay. In doing so, we aim to improve health outcomes in part by acknowledging and actively addressing factors that impact health outside of clinical visit time. Through community partnerships, education, distribution of resources, and other methods, we hope to build social and physical environments that promote good health for all. In providing innovative, integrated care and support services, we strive to meet the health needs of our community while also addressing the barriers that exist to quality health through support services, programming and collaborating with local, state, and national partners to advocate for positive change.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Health Policy Analyst will report to the Director of Quality under the supervision of the Chief of Quality and Population Health and will uphold WNCCHS commitment to high quality access to health care for all patients through data analysis, community-based research, quality improvement, project management, and organizational cultural development. The Health Policy Analyst will leverage their background in humanities, social sciences, and critical studies to apply a humanistic framework to the programmatic and operational structures of the organization. The Health Policy Analyst will collaborate with team members, including the Quality Director, Grants Manager, Human Resources, and others to ingrain project management, data analytics and quality improvement skills into the fabric of the organization. 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 Quality Manager to improve efforts to analyze clinical quality data, both quantitative and qualitative in nature, to identify gaps in care for groups experiencing disadvantages and others as needed.
- Analyze social drivers of health (SDOH) data from Care Management assessments to understand impacts on health outcomes.
- Spearhead cross-functional quality improvement projects to address disparities.
- Research and implement evidence-based programs that address health disparities revealed in clinical and community data.
- Collaborate with Marketing and Communication Director to produce culturally responsive health promotion materials.
- Assist supervisor and Quality Department in maintaining up-to-date demographic reporting policies and procedures; pull data to prepare demographic reports as needed.
- Develop and deploy tiered educational programming and training for all staff on implicit bias and cultural humility best practices.
- Assist supervisor in community collaborations to develop special projects and patient resources.
- Participate in mandatory in-services, drills, staff meetings, and other training.

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**Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.
- Interact in a friendly, professional manner with a wide range of staff, physicians, and the public.
- Plan, prioritize, and complete delegated tasks with attention to detail.
- Ability to multitask and work well under pressure is essential.
- Experience working sensitively and competently in and with various communities.
- Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office programs to produce correspondence, documents, presentations, and records.
- Ability to produce, analyze, and communicate complex concepts and theoretical approaches. Training on quantitative data collection, analysis, and report generation will be provided.
- Exercise independent judgment and initiative in performing assigned duties.
- Ability to manage and meet deadlines, including assisting supervisors with the tracking, reporting, and achievement of grant-funded project(s) metrics.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively to identify and work toward objectives.
- Government-issued picture ID.

*Preferred:*

- Statistical analysis software, such as SAS, SPSS, or other programs.
- Experience, training and/or interest in medical humanities.
- Experience, training and/or interest in analyzing structural inequality.
- Familiarity with the role of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in the community.
- Training will be provided for each of these preferences, regardless of the candidate's existing level of expertise.

**APPLICATIONS**

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