



# 2019 Youth Organizing Fellowship

For the last 29 years, Community Coalition (CoCo) has been organizing African American and Latino youth and residents to influence, change and create public policy that can improve the quality of life in South LA. The organization successfully pioneered one of the first large-scale action campaigns in the nation to use land-use policy for social justice, made college prep classes a civil right for all students attending the Los Angeles Unified School District, and altered the public debate on foster care to support keeping children with relatives in kinship care. The organization has built a groundbreaking, community-driven approach to creating systemic social change.

This year, CoCo will coordinate its first Youth Organizing Fellowship to contribute to the social justice movement by investing in the next generation of people of color leaders committed to transforming the social and economic conditions, and to advancing equity and opportunity for Black and Brown communities. A cohort of (8) fellows will receive intensive training in theory of social change, social movement history, and the art and science of youth organizing through hands on application in base building efforts of high school students in South Los Angeles.

The Youth Organizing Fellowship will be composed of a diverse group of people contributing the social justice movement. Fellows will have the opportunity to learn and engage with organizing experts with decades of experience. Additionally, fellows will learn youth organizing through field practice where they will apply power building strategies that address the root causes of poverty, mass incarceration and the school-to-prison pipeline.

## FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

The program will start on September 16<sup>th</sup> and culminate on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The 8-week Youth Organizing Fellowship is based in South Los Angeles, California. It consists of political education, organizing training, and field practice through base building efforts at South LA high schools with high school aged youth (14-18 years old). Ideal candidates are people who have work and/or direct life experience related to: neighborhood/community organizing, youth organizing, the juvenile justice system, education transformation, immigration, etc.

## POLITICAL EDUCATION/ORGANIZING TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDE:

- History of Community & Youth Organizing
- Race and Racism
- Black and Brown Unity
- Art & Science of Organizing
- Leadership Development
- Power Building Strategies
- Cutting an Issue
- Campaign Development
- Understanding Power

## FIELD PRACTICE:

Fellows will have the opportunity to work with youth organizers and youth leaders in South Los Angeles. By the end of the program, Fellows will have the training and experience of community organizing by using the following strategies:

- **South Central Youth Empowered through Action (SCYEA):** Fellows will help to coordinate and facilitate political education and skills development trainings for youth leaders and activists in our youth organizing after-school program.
- **High School Organizing Committees (HSOCs):** Fellows will help to coordinate and launch a High School Organizing Committee at a South LA High School campus to recruit students to South Central Youth Empowered through Action.
- **Phone Banking:** Fellows will utilize phone banking to mobilize South LA youth to key organizing activities including South Central Youth Empowered through Action base meetings and High School Organizing Committees.
- **Campus Action Activity:** Fellows will work with youth leaders and activists to coordinate a campus action activity to increase participation of high school students in youth campaigns.

### REASONS TO APPLY:

- Form or develop political analysis when organizing youth in Black and Brown communities
- Access to political education and organizing training
- Application of youth organizing training through field practice
- Learn about the fundamentals of issue development
- Engage and network with experts in the field of community organizing

### CRITERIA:

- Have an interest in developing youth organizing skills and learning to build a base to advance policy action campaigns
- Have an understanding of the importance of power building in Black and Brown communities
- Is passionate about community, social justice issues and transformative systemic change
- Can work autonomously and as a member of a team
- Have both work and/or direct life experiences that can be harnessed to "hit the ground running"

### TIME COMMITMENT AND AWARD:

The Organizing Fellowship is a full-time 8-week program. Participants are required to dedicate 40 hours per week (some weekends may be required depending on level of activity). Each week, fellows are required to participate in political education workshops, organizing trainings and field practice. Community Coalition will provide an award of up to \$6,000 (upon completion of hours) to selected candidates.

## GUIDELINES TO APPLY:

Application to Youth Organizing Fellowship are **due Wednesday, August 21st, 2019 by 5pm PST (no exceptions)**. The selection committee, composed of organizational staff and members, will review all applications. Top candidates will be invited for a group interview between August 26<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>. Notifications of acceptance to fellowship will be sent to selected candidates on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## HOW TO APPLY:

1. Fill out the [Youth Organizing Fellowship Application Form](https://bit.ly/2GexBIV) [LINK: <https://bit.ly/2GexBIV>].
2. Provide a response to the following questions (max 300 words per response – do not submit responses if you answered the online application):
  - a. What is your interest in applying to the Youth Organizing Fellowship?
  - b. Using the criteria, what strengths can you contribute to the fellowship?
  - c. What experience do you seek to gain from this fellowship?
  - d. How will you utilize what you learned after the fellowship has concluded?
  - e. Are you able to commit to the program for 8 weeks, 40 hours per week, or are there conflicts with the timeline/schedule?
  - f. Share an experience where you engaged decision makers for the betterment of your family, school, neighborhood, community?
  - g. A core value of Community Coalition is to build solidarity between African American and Latinx residents. Can you share your thoughts about why it's an important strategy for creating social change?
3. Submit your resume & references.

Email [fellowship@cocosouthla.org](mailto:fellowship@cocosouthla.org) for any additional questions about the program and/or application.

[www.CoCoSouthLA.org](http://www.CoCoSouthLA.org)



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