

The Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship

Training Leaders in the Fight Against Hunger and Poverty

Training Tomorrow's Leaders

The **Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program** is a unique leadership development program that trains, inspires, and sustains emerging leaders committed to social justice.

Program participants gain **practical experience** fighting hunger and poverty through placements in community-based organizations across the country, as well as **policy experience** through placements in Washington, D.C. Fellows also explore the root causes of hunger and poverty in a **peer learning community**. This unique program bridges community-based efforts with national public policy to develop Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows as **effective leaders** in the movement to end hunger and poverty.

The Program

Each year 16–20 participants are selected from across the country for this year long program. They assemble in Washington, D.C. in August for a comprehensive orientation and **field training**, where they learn about **hunger and poverty** in the United States, the local and national programs designed to address the issues, social justice, and various approaches to social change.

Fellows are placed for half the year with **community-based organizations** involved in fighting hunger and poverty at the local level, such as grassroots organizing groups, advocacy organizations, economic development agencies, food banks, hospitals, and local government offices. Each host organization identifies specific goals and outcomes for the Fellows' projects and provides the supervision and resources necessary to accomplish them.

In mid-February, the Fellows regroup in Washington, D.C. to share and reflect on their field experiences and participate in an extensive **policy training** to learn about national anti-hunger and anti-poverty policy work.

Fellows then work in **nonprofit organizations and federal government agencies** involved in designing, implementing, researching, and advocating for anti-hunger and anti-poverty policies at the national level. During their time in D.C., Fellows complete research, outreach, advocacy, and public education projects that support national policy initiatives.

Throughout the year, the Fellows develop a **strong learning community** that supports peer learning, reflection, resource sharing, and skill building around their field and policy work and social justice issues, with a focus on racial justice.



*The Best of
Both Worlds: In the
Field and Behind the Policy*

Benefits

- \$16,000 annual living allowance
- Health insurance
- Travel expenses
- Housing during field placement
- \$4,000 housing subsidy in D.C.
- \$3,500 end of service award
- Relocation subsidies
- Membership in a learning community of fellow Fellows
- Connection to an extensive network of alumni, partners, and experts
- Experience with community and policy leaders
- Training / mentoring / leadership development
- Experience with project management

Applying

The application deadline for the program is in early **January**. For more information, please see <http://www.emersonapplication.org>.

Application Information

The Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship

Fellowship

Do you want to spend a year fighting hunger and poverty with a tight-knit community of emerging leaders? Emerson Hunger Fellows shape and implement local anti-hunger programs all over the U.S., and then research and support national policy initiatives in Washington, D.C. Applications are encouraged from candidates reflecting diverse personal, educational, cultural, and experiential backgrounds.

Apply now!

Application Requirements

Applications to the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship will be accepted online only. To access the online application, please see <http://www.emersonapplication.org>.

Resume: Please be certain to include your email address and phone number.

Personal Statement: What values, principles, and personal factors (social, economic, and cultural) have shaped your interest in participating in the Emerson Hunger Fellows Program? What particular qualities, knowledge, experiences, and skills will you contribute to your field and policy placements? How do you expect this fellowship to contribute to your professional goals?

Short Essay Questions:

1. What role do you believe the government plays or should play in ending hunger?
2. How have your community work and/or general experiences changed your perspective on poverty over time?

Two Letters of Recommendation: Please ask your recommenders to evaluate your written and oral communication skills, demonstrated leadership qualities or experience, and professional skills, if applicable. At least one letter should be from a supervisor (as opposed to a professor or academic advisor). Letters should include a telephone number and email address, and should be sent by the recommender via email to fellows@hungercenter.org, via fax to 202-547-7575, or via post to: Emerson Selection Committee at the Congressional Hunger Center (address right).

Deadline

The application deadline for the next class of Emerson Fellows is in early **January**. For more information, please see <http://www.emersonapplication.org>.

Join the Community of Hunger Fellows

Selection Criteria

Commitment to **social justice**
Demonstrated **leadership** qualities and skills
Commitment to **anti-racism**
Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
U.S. citizenship or permanent residency
Flexibility and ability to adjust to new situations
Creativity and initiative in **problem solving**
Willingness to **learn from experts** in the field, and **search for new models** in anti-hunger and anti-poverty work
Enthusiasm for peer learning in a tight-knit community of Fellows

Timeline

Semifinalist selection will be complete by mid-February; interviews will be scheduled in Washington, D.C. in March; and final selection decisions will be made in April.



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