

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. In this unique program bridging community-based efforts and national public policy, Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows develop as **effective leaders** in the movement to end hunger and poverty.

The Program

Each year, **twenty participants** are selected from around 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, and various approaches to social change.

Fellows are placed for five months 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, and local government agencies. Each host organization identifies specific goals and outcomes for the Fellows and provides the supervision and resources necessary to accomplish them.

In mid-February, the Fellows regroup in Washington, D.C. to share 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 **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. They also meet regularly for **professional development trainings**.



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
- \$3,500 end of service award
- \$4,000 housing subsidy in D.C.
- Relocation subsidies
- Connection to an extensive community of Hunger Fellows and network of alumni, partners, and experts
- Experience with community and policy leaders
- Training / mentoring / leadership development
- Experience in project management

Applying

The application deadline for the 2012–2013 program is **January 17, 2012**. See reverse for application instructions.



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>.

The application has three parts: a data form, a 3 page application document, and letters of recommendation. Applicants can complete the data form and upload their application document online. Application documents should consist of one .pdf or MS Word document, three pages in length: the first page should be your resume, the second page your personal statement, and the third page your answers to two short essay questions. Please give your document the filename: Last name_First name_Middle initial.doc.

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



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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 at right).

Deadline

The application deadline for the 2012–2013 class of Emerson Fellows is **January 17, 2012**.

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 commitment to the **search for new models** in anti-hunger and anti-poverty work

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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