

Community Coalition's 2021 Youth Organizing Fellowship

For the last 31 years, Community Coalition (CoCo) has been organizing Black and Brown residents and youth 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.

Building from successful organizing fellowships over the last three years, CoCo will coordinate its third Youth Organizing Fellowship to contribute to the social justice movement by investing in the next generation of organizers committed to transforming social and economic conditions and advancing equity and opportunity for Black and Brown communities.

A cohort of 8-10 fellows will receive intensive training in theory of social change, social movement history and the art and science of community organizing through hands-on application. The Youth Organizing Fellowship will be composed of a diverse group of people contributing to the social justice movement. Fellows will have the opportunity to learn and engage with organizing experts with decades of experience. Additionally, fellows will learn 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. Engagement with other fellows, faculty, staff, and community members will be facilitated in a hybrid model (in-person and digital). We will observe and follow CDC safety guidelines and protocols around COVID-19.

FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

The program will start on Monday, August 30th 2021 and will culminate on Friday, November 19th. The 12-week Youth Organizing Fellowship is based in South Los Angeles, California and will be facilitated in a hybrid model (in-person and digital). The program revolves around the personal and professional development of participants on core organizing competencies facilitated through training and field practice centering on outreach and recruitment. The program supplements this core organizing training and practice with political education and coaching and mentoring.

Ideal candidates are people that have a belief in the power of youth to build power and impact change and who have an interest in learning foundational organizing principles to organize high school aged youth.

POLITICAL EDUCATION/ORGANIZING TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDE:

The Youth Organizing Fellowship is designed to support participants through their professional development as youth organizers. Foundational organizing topics center on outreach and recruitment training and practices that are critical to community-based youth organizing. Fellows will have an opportunity to play a critical role in helping to conduct base building of high school aged youth in South LA and social investigation that will inform campaign development for our youth organizing component.



Fellows will:

- learn and apply foundational organizing practices on outreach and recruitment to build a base of high school students.
- receive organizing training from faculty who have a depth of experience and knowledge on organizing, South LA, and youth engagement.
- learn how to conduct social investigation through engagement of youth in one-on-ones, base meetings, and mass-based events and activities.

Below is a sample of some of the training sessions we have facilitated in our organizing fellowships:

- Organizing as the Solution
- Art & Science of Organizing
- The Role of an Organizer
- Developing an Outreach Plan
- Conducting Social Investigation
- Understanding Power
- Phone Banking
- Script Development
- Mass Mobilization

CRITERIA:

This fellowship is geared toward individuals with an interest in activism, organizing and who have relevant lived experience that want to refine and develop foundational skills in organizing. Applicants should be at least 18 years old and:

- Have a desire to build power in Black and Brown communities
- Have an interest in developing community organizing skills and learning to build a base of high school aged youth to advance policy action campaigns
- Be passionate about community, social justice issues and transformative systemic change
- Be able to 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”
- Have access to reliable phone, computer, internet, and reliable transportation to participate in key training sessions and field practice that will take place virtually and in-person.

TIME COMMITMENT AND AWARD:

The Youth Organizing Fellowship is an intensive 12-week program with participants required to dedicate 25 hours per week. The schedule will typically be set Monday – Friday from 1pm to 7pm to allow for consistency but we ask for flexibility during the week and on weekends in order to participate in community events and/or virtual forums and other key activities.

Each week, fellows are required to participate in organizing training, field practice, coaching/mentoring, and team meetings. Community Coalition will provide and award up to \$6,000 to selected candidates.

This year, Community Coalition will reserve 1-3 slots for individuals working from ally organizations seeking to increase their community organizing capacity. Such individuals must receive permission to participate in the program and are not eligible to receive a stipend due to existing salaries paid by ally organizations.



GUIDELINES TO APPLY:

Applications to the Community Organizing Fellowship will be accepted through Wednesday, August 4th, 2021, 11:59pm PST (no exceptions). Candidates who apply by Sunday, July 25th and are selected will participate in a group interview between July 28th - July 30th. Candidates who apply by Wednesday, August 4th and who are selected will be interviewed between August 9th and August 13th. We strongly encourage you to submit your application by our early deadline to increase your chances of being selected.

Notifications of acceptance to fellowship will be sent to selected candidates by Wednesday, August 18th at the latest. The selection committee who will review applications is composed of organizational staff, former fellows, faculty, and members.

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Fill out the [Youth Organizing Fellowship Application Form](https://bit.ly/YOFellowship2021) [LINK: bit.ly/YOFellowship2021].
 - a. Fully read application requirements below before submitting your application.
 - b. Prepare your application materials before proceeding to fill out the application form.
2. Submit a 1-page response that addresses the following questions:
 - a. Why are you interested in applying to Community Coalition's Youth Organizing Fellowship? What experience do you seek to gain from this fellowship? How will you utilize what you learned after the fellowship has concluded?
 - b. Tell us a little bit about who you are. What lived experience, or relevant background, has inspired your interest in youth organizing and the larger social justice movement?
 - c. Share an experience where you engaged decision makers for the betterment of your family, school, neighborhood, community. What organizing skills did you practice and develop during that time? (for example: outreach & recruitment, canvassing, phone banking, social investigation, mass mobilization, and/or campaign development)
3. Provide a short response to the following (max 250 words):
 - a. A core value of Community Coalition is to build solidarity between Black and Brown residents. Share your thoughts about why it's an important strategy for creating social change and in what ways can we facilitate it through organizing?
4. Upload a 1-minute video with your application introducing yourself to the selection committee. Share your name, pronouns, where you're from, and what you hope to accomplish as Youth Organizing Fellow. You can also include how your background has influenced your decision to learn organizing and what you seek to do post-fellowship.
5. Submit your resume and references.

Email fellowship@cocosouthla.org for any additional questions about the program and/or application.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Will the fellowship require you to be in Los Angeles?

Yes. The Youth Organizing Fellowship will be facilitated through a hybrid model that will require fellows to do in-place field outreach.

If I'm in high school, can I still apply if I'm 18 years old?

We will consider recent high school graduates for the Youth Organizing Fellowship cohort but will not take on current high school students as Fellows. We encourage you to check out and get involved in [our youth programs at Community Coalition](#).

Can I apply if I'm undocumented?

Yes, you can apply if you are undocumented.

Can I still apply if I have a scheduling conflict during the program?

We will strongly consider participants who can fully participate in the program. We will not consider applicants with major conflicts including those who are missing weeks of the program or missing consistent days and times throughout the weeks. The program is designed to fully apply the training in field practice and work as a team with your cohort and missing significant time will not allow for full immersion, participation, and collaboration.

