

# 2018 Community Activist Fellowship Guidelines



WAYFINDER FOUNDATION  
FOR THE LEAST OF THESE



## ABOUT THE WAYFINDER FOUNDATION

Launched in the spring of 2017, the Wayfinder Foundation has a vision of ending intergenerational poverty in the United States. We know this is huge goal and there is no one way to end poverty in the United States. However our grantmaking philosophy is simple: ***invest in women who are working to build their communities through activism, and we change the course of life for under resourced children, families, communities, cities and ultimately the nation.*** Ultimately, we seek to build a national network of women activists who are disrupting the power structures and changing their communities for good.

### Our Goals:

#### ***We Invest in People Who Make a Difference***

The Wayfinder Foundation is looking to build a cadre of community leaders that demonstrate a passion to social justice issues impacting their community. Our goal is to provide support to high-value, but undiscovered leaders in under-resourced communities. We look for those leaders who would never be on philanthropies radar, those who often show up for direct actions, but are always the person not receiving a paycheck.

#### ***We Provide Technical Support and Infrastructure***

Our fellowship program provides host support/fiscal agency, training, and other support to activists to establish and achieve goals. We provide the process and guidance for developing our fellows' capacity for communication, activism, and community organizing.

#### ***We Launch, Amplify, and Connect Our Grantees***

Wayfinder seeks to build a national network of place-based activists who make trouble and win battle for justice. In the end we want our Community Activist Fellows to be the national face for social change.

## GENERAL CRITERIA

The Wayfinder Foundation Community Activist Fellowships seeks exemplary community activists who are interested in growing their leadership and are tackling issues that impact them

directly. Fellowship awards are up to \$5,000 for a 12 month period. Fellows must engage in a set of activities and/or project that will have an impact on their community. However the Fellowship award is not limited to support of a particular project, but can also be used to support leadership development, education and training, grassroots organizing and advocacy, social media and other communication efforts, coalition building, community mobilization, as well as other efforts intended to have a positive impact in the community.

The Wayfinder Foundation is interested in investing in the leadership development of unsung heroes themselves, so while we expect that our fellows may be engaged in project based work, the purpose of the fellowship is to provide support to the activist/fellow themselves so that they grow as community leaders. In addition to the fellowship award, fellows will have access to a variety of training, networking and professional development opportunities

## **ELIGIBILITY**

The Community Activist Fellowship Program (CAF) seeks applications from women activists that are addressing a wide range issues in their communities. Applicants must be from the communities where their work is happening. Fellows must be willing to participate in communications, coaching, training and networking activities that are a part of the fellowship program.

### ***The Wayfinder CAF is for you if YOU:***

- Are a woman of color, 18 and older, who is directly impacted by the issues they seek to resolve.
- Reside in DC, LA, Memphis, Oakland or Indianapolis.
- Have an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). For 2017 the FPL is \$24,120 for an individual or \$49,200 for a family of four.
- Are directly affected by, and/or have significant direct experience with the issues, policies, practices, and/or systems that is the focus of your activism efforts.
- Include real and meaningful participation in the decision making process of your work from community members where your efforts/projects are based.
- Have the drive, passion, commitment and tenacity to improve your community through activism.
- Want to utilize the power of communications through storytelling, blogging and community led campaigns to move your agenda.
- Have a lack of access to traditional funding opportunities, or lack easy access to existing opportunities for leadership development.

***The Wayfinder Foundation Community Activist Fellowship Program will not support:***

- General operating support for an organization
- Capital Campaigns
- Direct service organizations, i.e. food pantries, soup kitchens
- Activities to elect specific candidates for public office

**HOST ORGANIZATIONS**

The Wayfinder Foundation Community Activist Fellowship Program awards are made to the individual activist themselves. The Wayfinder Foundation will serve as the host organization for those fellows who do not wish to select their own host organization. As a host organization, the Wayfinder Foundation will provide access to networking, supervision and guidance. The Wayfinder Foundation will also be responsible for the management and finance/accounting for fellowship awards.

Fellows may also choose a host organization in their communities. If a fellow chooses a host organization, other than the Wayfinder Foundation, the organization must have a 501 (c)3 designation, as well as have the infrastructure in place for finance/accounting, be able to make regular payments to the fellow and must agree that the award is being made to the host on the fellow's behalf. Please note that there will not be supplemental funds awarded to the host organization.

**APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS**

There are three stages to the application process. First all applicants must submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) through the Wayfinder Foundation's online grantmaking platform. For the LOI, the applicant must answer 5 questions that seek to gain insight into to the applicant's goals and plan for the fellowship term. Secondly, the Wayfinder staff will review all LOIs and select a group of finalists who will be invited to submit a full proposal. All full proposals will be reviewed by a Community Review Committee comprised of members from the cities where the applicant resides. Third, applicants may be invited to interview with the Community Review Committee. After interviews and review of applications has been completed, applicants will be notified of their status.

The Wayfinder Foundation hopes to select up to 8 fellows in each of its investment cities, each quarter of 2018, with the goal of having 64 Community Activist Fellows by the end of 2018. The first round of Fellowship awards will be made by April 2018 to community activists residing and working in Los Angeles, California and Indianapolis, Indiana.

For questions or more information, please email us at [fellowships@wayfinder.foundation](mailto:fellowships@wayfinder.foundation).