



## Paid Fellowships in Community Organizing and Civic Engagement in Immigrant Communities

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) announces the New Americans Democracy Project, a five-month fellowship program for young people who are interested in working hard while exploring a career in social justice work, receiving quality training, and contributing to the participation of new citizens in the American democratic process.

The Program will run from July 28<sup>th</sup> to November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, and will pay an educational stipend of \$325 per week. Participants will receive training in the skills of community organizing, non-partisan voter registration and ‘Get-Out-The-Vote’ (GOTV) efforts from the staff, members and allies of ICIRR. These allies include community-based organizations with decades experience in community and direct-action organizing as well as national groups like Wellstone Action and the Center for Community Change, both national leaders in electoral organizing and training. Furthermore, ICIRR will provide training on immigration issues and working with immigrant communities.

Fellows will initially receive 7 days of paid training, supplemented with trainings throughout the length of the fellowship, and will be placed with allied organizations in immigrant communities around the metro-Chicago area. ICIRR staff will provide day-to-day supervision, along with staff in placement organizations.

Fellows will work with their placement organizations to develop a local volunteer recruitment strategy and carry out intensive voter registration campaigns, focusing on new citizens in immigrant communities. In the weeks leading up to the November 2008 elections, fellows will work with these volunteers to conduct GOTV activities. All work will be non-partisan (not supporting a particular candidate or party), and will be carried under non-profit 501c3 guidelines.

We are looking for applicants who are willing to work hard, ready for a challenge, and are passionate for social justice and democratic participation. Previous experience is not required, although we anticipate that successful candidates will have been active in their communities or issues that matter to them. **Because fellows will be working with community volunteers and conductive extensive outreach, this will not be a 9-5 job, but will require commitment and flexibility. It will be essential to have a full-time use of a car.** We will pay mileage and specific job-related expenses.

Applicants who speak languages of targeted immigrant communities are especially encouraged to apply: Spanish, Arabic, Korean, Polish, Hindi, Urdu, Mandarin, Cantonese, Tagalong, etc...

Because of the rapid increase of immigrants beyond the city of Chicago, placements will be will be in Chicago as well as in some or all of the following locations: Waukegan, Wheeling, Glenview, Skokie, Schaumburg, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Elgin, Carpentersville, Aurora, West Chicago, DuPage County, Joliet, Melrose Park, and Bridgeview.

**We anticipate that several fellows will be hired into full-time jobs as a result of their fellowship experience.** In 2006, a significant majority of fellows attained full-time jobs in

community organizing and social justice organizations, while the rest returned to post-secondary education. At the end of the fellowship, we will work with all fellows who are interested in obtaining work in the field to provide assistance in applying for jobs, including career counseling, resume review, networking, and providing references.

To find out more information about the New Americans Democracy Project, ICIRR, or the fellowship, please contact Juan Jose Gonzalez at (312) 332 – 7360 x 236 or send an email to [jgonzalez@icirr.org](mailto:jgonzalez@icirr.org). You can also look at the following website: [www.icirr.org](http://www.icirr.org).

\*Please keep in mind that you will be sending your application to CAIR-Chicago.\*

**To apply, please fill out the following application and submit it ASAP, before March 31st . Please e-mail your application to Gerald Hankerson, Outreach Coordinator, [externships@cairchicago.org](mailto:externships@cairchicago.org); office phone (312) 212-1520 and fax (312) 212-1530. Please call or email as well so that we may make sure we have received your fax.**

We will interview likely candidates either in person or by phone, beginning the week of April 3<sup>rd</sup> and continue until spaces are filled.

.....

## APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

- 1) Name, Current address, Permanent address, Telephone Number and Email
- 2) College Attended, year of graduation and major (college graduation not required for fellowship)
- 3) Please describe your race or ethnicity
- 4) Will you have full time use of a car from July 1 to December 1
- 5) What is your familiarity with Microsoft Office
- 6) Please list your previous employment history, including your primary job responsibilities (may include full or part-time work)
- 7) Have you lived, worked, or attended school in any of Chicago metro-land communities with high immigrant populations (See potential targets listed above)? **If you have any particular familiarity with these locations, please briefly indicate the extent of your connection and knowledge with one or more.**
- 8) Why are you interested learning community organizing and civic participation skills? What do you most hope to get out of the fellowship experience?
- 9) What previous social justice/organizing efforts have you been involved in, either as a volunteer or paid (on-campus or off)? Please include a brief description of any previous electoral experience you may have had.
- 10) Thinking of you previous experiences, tell more about one particular thing you did. Explain why you either felt great satisfaction in the experience, or did not feel satisfied.
- 11) What are your career goals? (feel free to name a specific job, field, or skills you want to learn. We are looking for your ideas about future, not necessarily a precise 5-year career path)
- 12) Can you carry a conversation in a language other than English? Which one(s), and how well?
- 13) Is there anything else you would us to know about you?
- 14) How did you hear about the fellowship?