

# Introduction to the ELLA Fellowship



## PURPOSE

The ELLA Fellowship Program is a unique leadership opportunity for young women aged 16-22. The purpose of the fellowship is to encourage the leadership of young activists by providing them with the opportunity to conceptualize a project, the resources to implement it, and the support to analyze, evaluate, and learn from it.

## INTRODUCTION

The ELLA (Engage, Learn, Lead, and Act) Fellowship, named for civil rights leader, Ella Baker, offers young women aged 16-22 the opportunity to develop and implement their own leadership project with specialized guidance from SNLP. The Fellowship includes a generous award and additional allowance to implement a social justice project that addresses issues in the Fellow's community. All Fellows are required to attend monthly retreats, committing to a 9-month Fellowship cycle starting in October and culminating in June with a project showcase.

## ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, you must:

- Be a young woman between the ages of 16 and 22
- Have at least 2 years of prior leadership experience
- Commit to attending monthly retreats in the New York City area
- Be a self-motivated, passionate, and committed individual that genuinely desires to serve as a positive force for change in your community
- Have a thorough understanding of and stake in a clearly focused issue affecting a community you belong to/relate to
- Desire to develop leadership skills and increase your self confidence

If you are unsure as to whether you meet the above requirements PLEASE ASK US! We are happy to address any concerns you might have.

## APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications are reviewed by an SNLP staff member, the ELLA Coordinator, and a former ELLA Fellow. Fellowships are awarded based on the commitment of the Fellow, the match with ELLA philosophies, and the viability of the project. Final decisions will be made by **Friday, September 9th, 2011** and applicants will be notified promptly.

## FELLOWSHIP AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Fellowship Payments: The **Fellowship stipend** is paid in 9 monthly installments of up to \$300 and is contingent upon participation in retreats and check-in meetings, as well as the successful completion of project-related work. Fellows also receive funding up to **\$500** to meet project costs.

Fellowship Retreats: Mandatory monthly retreats are held in New York City and in the immediate surrounding area. Retreats allow Fellows to meet with the Program Coordinator, receive feedback and support from peers, and participate in skills-based training. Retreats are held on weekends and will be either one-day or two-day events. Transportation costs, housing, and food will be provided by SNLP. In addition to retreats, Fellows are required to meet one-on-one with the Program Coordinator as needed during regularly scheduled office hours.

Progress and Final Reports: Fellows track monthly progress toward goals and will regularly check-in with the Program Coordinator regarding progress. As part of the tracking process, Fellows will also be required to submit relevant project materials to the Program Coordinator (i.e. curricula, outreach materials, etc.) and will complete a final report at the end of the Fellowship. Fellows will receive support in the production of all required materials.

## SELECTION PROCESS

ELLA Fellowship PROJECTS must be:

-Youth-Led: Fellows are the main designers and implementers of their own projects. You can work independently or with a partner. You receive guidance and feedback but you set your own goals and are personally responsible for your project.

-Grassroots: Fellows work locally with people and issues that are personally significant to them. You will work to help your own community and will involve members of that community in your work. A community can be defined by geography (ex: East New York) or by shared experiences, background, need, or identity (ex: immigrant youth, people who need awareness on sex education, a community with high risk of diabetes or cancer, etc.). We also invite you to engage individuals that SNLP does not traditionally focus on, and to collaborate with community organizations and partners.

- Social Justice Focused: Projects will seek to address real needs within communities and will explore the root cause of injustice. Projects will use education, activism, and organizing (as opposed to community service like volunteering in a soup kitchen) to create change.

- Feasible: A project must be reasonable and do-able. It *should* be ambitious and creative, but it must also be completed within the 9-month timeline. For example: Ending poverty is too broad, but writing a poem on poverty is too narrow. Your project should address the issue within the timeframe and with the resources you will have at your disposal.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Review this Introduction to the ELLA Fellowship Program

Review the Tips for Applicants

#### Attend an Open House:

**Wednesday, July 20th 4:30pm at The New School**

**Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 4pm at the SNLP Office**

**Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> 4pm at the SNLP Office**

Complete and submit the Fellowship Application **BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 19th, 2011**

Submit the application via email at [Laura@sadienash.org](mailto:Laura@sadienash.org) or via fax at 718.422.8663. Contact Laura Menchaca Bishop, Program Coordinator, at 718.422.8664 if you have any questions or concerns.