



Civic Engagement Fellow (Philadelphia, PA)

Job Description

APALA seeks a creative, strategic, and passionate advocate for economic justice and AAPI worker equity.

Summary

The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), AFL-CIO is seeking a Civic Engagement Fellow to help our team build out local worker and civic engagement campaigns. The anticipated timeframe for the fellowship is June 2021 to December 2021 (7 months).

About APALA

Founded in 1992, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), AFL-CIO is the first and only national organization of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) union members and allies advancing worker, immigrant, and civil rights. Backed with strong support of the AFL-CIO, APALA has 23 chapters and pre-chapters in 16 states and a national office in Washington, D.C. In 2011 to ensure broader education, civic engagement, and capacity building for our communities, APALA established the Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership & Advancement (IAPALA) as a 501(c)3. To achieve our mission, we build power by:

- Organizing members into unions, develop a pipeline of labor leaders, and build political power for our community;
- Educating AAPI workers and allies about the labor movement, principles of trade unionism, and collective bargaining, as well as providing a vehicle for AAPI issues and concerns;
- Activating our chapters across the country to advance social, racial, and economic justice through state-based campaigns; and
- Representing the voice of AAPI workers on coalitions within the labor community and more broadly in the civil rights, AAPI, and racial justice communities.

About Asian Americans United

AAU was founded in 1985 by a small group of activists seeking to create an organized response to rising issues of anti-Asian violence, substandard housing and education rights for non-English speaking Asians in the city. After more than three decades of organizing and community building, AAU is perhaps best known for its advocacy work resulting in a variety of successful Campaigns.

For more than a decade, AAU has had a particular focus on the Chinese immigrant community, the largest and rapidly growing Asian American ethnic group in Philadelphia. In late 2014, AAU began our Chinatown Vote project. Since then, AAU has trained youth and adult volunteers to register new voters, conduct door knocking and phone banking, and to assist non-English

proficient voters at polls. 80% of volunteers are youth. Chinatown Vote volunteers speak the many dialects (Mandarin, Cantonese, Fuzhounese, Taizhou and more) that are necessary to fully engage the diverse Chinese community of Philadelphia. We conduct in-language trainings and workshops to help youth and adult volunteers to understand not just the logistics of voting, but also the importance of voting and the history behind how communities of color won the right to vote. Through AAU's Chinatown Vote, we strive to reframe voting from a one-day action to a long-term project that involves day-in and day-out engagement with community members about the issues that matter most to them.

About the Position

The Civic Engagement Fellow will advance our programs to build capacity with local APALA chapters in order to execute worker and civic engagement organizing campaigns. This role will have high-level exposure to an exciting world of labor organizing, community advocacy, and nonprofit coalitions. The Philadelphia, PA fellow will be housed at Asian Americans United. The position is currently remote due to the COVID-19 pandemic but the fellow will be based in Philadelphia.

Responsibilities include:

- Working with local labor and chapter leaders to design and execute organizing campaigns around workers rights and civic engagement
- Recruiting and engaging local APALA members into the campaigns
- Strengthening AAPI participating in existing and future campaigns in conjunction with local labor unions
- Working with local partners to uphold and strengthen collaborations with other AAPI organizations and networks
- Tracking and data entering work to ensure data driven campaign
- Working with AAU's Chinatown Vote Project
- Coordinating APALA's rallies, interviews, and appearances on the ground.
- Doing in person outreach for APALA at AAPI community spaces/union events.
- Helping to coordinate APALA civic engagement events and participation
- Helping to organize APALA chapter meetings and social events.
- Co-facilitating APALA meetings when appropriate
- Working with local partners to uphold and strengthen collaborations with other AAPI organizations and networks.
- Coordinating APALA's work with the AAPI power caucus
- Keeping track of membership contact, and engagement

About the Candidate

What We're Looking For:

- Highly organized, detail-oriented self-starter who can drive projects that result in high quality work in a timely manner. You know how to think ahead, prioritize your workload, and prepare for challenges. You enjoy challenges and having a full plate but also know how to manage up when the workload needs to be reprioritized.

- Deep commitment to racial, social, and economic justice. You don't just ask "Who's not at the table?" but "Why aren't they at the table and how can we fix it?"
- Natural organizer who enjoys talking to members, board members, allies and other stakeholders. People go to you when they want to know who to work with on a specific campaign or how they can get help with a project.
- Someone who enjoys a respectful, positive, collaborative, and flexible work environment. The team is small but nimble. We celebrate shared successes and empower each other to be impactful in our work.
- Someone that is disciplined enough to drive their work after being given guidance on overall outcomes.

Job Requirements:

- Proficiency in Mandarin or Cantonese preferred.
- Experience organizing in civic engagement and/or organizing campaigns, especially in economic justice and worker issues.
- Experience in economic justice or labor organizations.
- Knowledge of and experience working in the Asian American/Pacific Islander community.
- Demonstrated passion working in low-income, working class, and communities of color around social, economic, and racial justice.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills; a relatable and persuasive communicator/organizer with excellent interpersonal skills.
- Nice to have but not necessary:
 - Experience working in a local or state-based organizations
 - Experience working in coalitions
 - Experience with technology like Voter Activation Network, Hustle

Compensation

Hourly rate of \$17.00/hour, expected 20 hours per week. Benefits include health insurance and a monthly transit stipend.

Application

Submit cover letter and resume with 2 references (at least 1 work reference) to:

apala(at)apalanet(dot)org with the subject line "Philadelphia Civic Engagement Fellow."

Applications are rolling until May 14.

APALA is an equal opportunity employer. We strongly encourage youth, people of color, women, LGBTQ, and disabled folks to apply. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

The privacy of applicants will be respected and preserved until the last phase of the hiring process. References will be checked during finalist interviews, with candidate knowledge.