



Civic Engagement Fellow (Boston, MA)

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 August 2020 to April 2021, part-time (9 months), with option for full-time.

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 Chinese Progressive Association

CPA was founded in 1977 out of a series of community organizing campaigns around issues such as Chinese parents' input into the Boston school desegregation process and organizing for community control over land development in Chinatown. Our membership is made up predominantly of Chinese immigrants and the Chinese-speaking; most are workers in low wage industries, working families, or low-income elderly. CPA has no single issue focus because we believe that people have many concerns—jobs, education, freedom from discrimination, a clean and safe living environment. We have seen that once people achieve their rights in one aspect of their lives, they will be more likely to actively participate in solving other community problems.

The Chinese Progressive Association is a grassroots community organization which works for full equality and empowerment of the Chinese community in the Greater Boston area and beyond. Our activities seek to improve the living and working conditions of Chinese Americans and to involve ordinary community members in making decisions that affect our lives.

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 Boston, MA fellow will be housed at Chinese Progressive Association Boston. The position is currently remote due to the COVID-19 pandemic but the fellow will be based in the Boston area.

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
- Recruiting and training volunteers that will engage community members around campaign efforts
- Strengthening AAPI participation in existing and future campaigns in conjunction with local labor unions
- Liaising between APALA's national office and the Massachusetts chapter
- 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
- Plan and coordinate membership events
- Support other organizational work/activities

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.
- Outcomes-oriented person who is creative about your work, loves to learn more about the movement, and is always asking questions. You are usually the kind of person who has a new idea for how to run the program better and appreciates constructive feedback from team members.
- 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:

- High working proficiency in Toisanese, Cantonese, or Mandarin.
- 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 15-20 hours per week, with option for full-time. This is a 9-month position. Benefits include a monthly cell phone and 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 “Boston Civic Engagement Fellow.” Applications are rolling until August 7.

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.