The great American experiment in self-governance relies on the work of all our people to give it life and shape its destiny. Recognizing the need for citizens to participate in our democracy, President Lyndon B. Johnson launched the White House Fellows Program over half a century ago—and ever since, it has embodied the shared sense of civic responsibility that lies at the heart of our Republic.

From climate change and national security to transportation and energy, White House Fellows will be tasked with addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time. Serving at the highest levels of Government, Fellows are part of a long line of public servants who play a unique and powerful role in sustaining our Nation.

In order to bridge the gap between the promise of our ideals and the realities of our time, we need creative and innovative thinkers of all backgrounds to harness their potential, reimagine our country the way it should be, and bring bold visions to life. Each of us has the power to alter America’s course, and we hope you’ll consider applying to the White House Fellows Program to be that force for change.

Michelle Obama
“A genuinely free society cannot be a spectator society... Freedom, in its deepest sense, requires participation. It requires full and zestful, knowledgeable participation.”

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Founded in 1964, the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships is the nation’s premiere program for leadership and public service. The White House Fellowship offers exceptional Americans first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the Federal government. After a competitive application process, selected individuals spend a year in Washington, DC working as a full-time, paid Fellow to Cabinet Secretaries, senior White House staff, and other top-ranking government officials. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of roundtable discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors. Fellowships are awarded on a strictly non-partisan basis.

Program Mission

In the words of President Lyndon B. Johnson, the purpose of the White House Fellows Program is “to give the Fellows first-hand, high-level experience with the workings of the Federal Government and to increase their sense of participation in our national affairs.” In describing the criteria for selection, President Johnson envisioned Fellows who “have demonstrated high moral character, exceptional ability, marked leadership qualities, and unusual promise of future development.” For 50 years, the White House Fellows program has delivered on this vision. After their year of service, Fellows are expected to take their acquired skills and knowledge back to their communities to work as private citizens and as national leaders in their fields.

Selection Criteria

- A record of remarkable professional achievement early in one's career.
- Evidence of leadership skills and the potential for further growth.
- A demonstrated commitment to public service.
- The skills to succeed at the highest levels of the Federal government, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.

Applicant Eligibility

- Applicants must be a U.S. citizen
- Federal government employees are not eligible, with the exception of career military personnel and some special government employees
- Applicants must have completed their undergraduate education

Applications are due in January of each year and the Fellowship runs from August to August.

Make an impact. Become a White House Fellow.
Visit www.whitehouse.gov/about/fellows to learn more.
PROGRAM COMPONENTS

**Work Placement**
The primary aim of the Fellowship is to place the Fellows in a work environment where positive role models provide mentorship and guidance. The work placement should tap the Fellows' full capacity and develop their abilities further. Fellows are not always assigned to a Federal agency associated with the Fellow’s area of expertise.

**Education Program**
The education program supplements the Fellows’ experience in their placements. The education component of the program provides off-the-record, candid discussions with distinguished leaders. Through the education program, Fellows gain valuable insights into the decision-making processes used to solve complex issues. They also gain insights into various management philosophies and leadership styles.

**Class Fellowship**
Among the most enriching components of the program is class fellowship, which often results in enduring friendships. Alumni convene at yearly meetings in Washington, DC and welcome new Fellows into one of the most prestigious networks of professionals and leaders in the country.

**Community Service**
Community service is a key component of the White House Fellowship. Fellows have a strong legacy of service to their communities and have consistently participated in community service projects throughout their year in Washington, DC.

An important outcome of the Fellowship is to foster greater military-civilian engagement and understanding. Through a variety of activities, Fellows gain a deeper understanding about the important contributions of our service men and women, and the operations of our military. This component is among the most enriching aspects of the White House Fellowship and what makes the program truly unique and rewarding.

**Impact of the Fellowship**
Fellows make notable contributions during their year of service and continue to impact our communities, our country, and the world. Since 1964, over 700 Americans have participated in the White House Fellows program. Among them are prominent public and private sector leaders like Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin, CNN Medical Correspondent Sanjay Gupta, and former Secretary of State General Colin Powell, who described the program as a “turning point” in his career. While these distinguished individuals are well-known, we also have among us a Soldier’s Medal recipient, the U.S. Army’s highest decoration for valor in a non-combat situation, awarded for bravery exhibited during the Boston Marathon bombing, CEOs, teachers, social entrepreneurs, scientists, and founders of nonprofit organizations who we are proud to claim as White House Fellows. Through this rich diversity of people, the Fellows family is united by an enduring commitment to public service.

**Make an impact. Become a White House Fellow.**
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**President Lyndon B. Johnson**

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Visit [www.whitehouse.gov/about/fellows](http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/fellows) to learn more.

**Eligibility requirements:**
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Cannot be a current Federal government employee (with the exception of career military personnel)
- Must have received a Bachelor’s degree and be working in their chosen profession

**Selection criteria:**
- A record of remarkable professional achievement early in one’s career.
- Evidence of leadership skills and the potential for further growth.
- A demonstrated commitment to public service.
- The skills to succeed at the highest levels of the Federal government and the ability to work as part of a team.

**Components of the fellowship:**
- Full-time work placement at a Federal department, agency, or office
- Education program consisting of off-the-record, candid discussions with distinguished leaders
- Service projects
- Relationship-building with Fellows class and alumni
THE IMPACT OF WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

Notable Alumni
- Mari Carmen Aponte, U.S. Amb. to El Salvador
- Joe Barton, U.S. Congressman (Texas)
- Lael Brainard, Federal Reserve Board of Governors
- Samuel Brownback, Former U.S. Senator and Governor of Kansas
- Elaine Chao, Former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor
- Wesley Clark, Ret. General, U.S. Army
- Cesar Conde, EVP, NBCUniversal
- Suzan Johnson Cook, Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Int'l Religious Freedom
- Cheryl Dorsey, CEO, Echoing Green
- Michael Froman, U.S. Trade Representative
- Doris Kearns Goodwin, Historian & Author
- Sanjay Gupta, CNN Chief Medical Corr.
- Jim Padilla, Former President, Ford Motor Company
- Michelle Peluso, CEO, Gilt Groupe
- Colin Powell, Former Secretary of State, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Ret. General, U.S. Army
- Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator (Alaska)
- Mike Ullman, Former CEO, J.C. Penney
- Tim Wirth, Vice Chairman, United Nations Foundation, Former U.S. Senator

Contributions in the Obama Administration
- **Office of the Vice President**: Advising on issues related to violence against women
- **Office of the First Lady**: Critical member of **Joining Forces**, initiative to support service members, veterans, and their families
- **Department of State**: Represented the U.S. in international meetings on development effectiveness at the OECD in Paris
- **Department of Defense**: Provided specialized advice to ranking physicians at DOD about military’s traumatic brain injury policy
- **Department of Energy**: Utilized cybersecurity expertise to expand focus on cyber-related issues, including electric grid security
- **Department of Labor**: Stood up a Women’s Veterans Initiative, which won Secretary’s Honor Award
- **Environmental Protection Agency**: Led joint effort with U.S. Coast Guard to review response efforts related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill
- **Office of Science & Technology Policy**: Worked on Lab-to-Market Initiative, implementing policies to optimize commercialization of federally funded research
- **Office of Management and Budget**: Reorganized Federal departments and agencies related to trade and competitiveness

In a community of over 700 alumni, White House Fellows have…
- Been named MacArthur Fellows
- Invented the LED and acted as a key player in the development of stealth technology for the U.S. military
- Launched the technology that is now used in medical scan thermometers
- Founded the Progeria Foundation which led to the discovery of the gene causing progeria
- Received the Soldier’s Medal, the U.S. Army’s highest decoration for valor in a non-combat situation, awarded for bravery exhibited during the Boston Marathon bombing
- Served as Cabinet Secretaries, Governors, Members of Congress, U.S. Senators, and other statewide elected officials
- Been New York Times best-selling authors
- 2 served together as U.S. Attorneys
- 12 have served as U.S. Ambassadors
- 26 have been presidents of colleges or deans of premier professional schools
- 51 have gone on to become General/Flag Officers in our nation’s armed forces
- 64 have served in government positions requiring Senate confirmation