

# **Becoming a Water Utility Leadership Fellow in the Water Access and Equity Lab**

## Information Session

Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM ET



## OBJECTIVES

1. Provide an overview of the Water Utility Leadership Fellowship at the Water Access and Equity Lab ahead of the application due date: January 16, 2022
2. Answer your questions during the Q&A
3. Encourage emerging utility leaders to apply and for others to share widely

## PURPOSE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

- Create a space for emerging utility leaders to:
  - learn about and engage with issues of access, affordability, and assistance, including the laws and policies governing those topics, and develop new skills
  - network with fellow utility leaders, the community served by your utility, and other stakeholders involved with water and sanitation provision and protection
  - build a stronger relationship with the community and households served
  - bring visibility to and help advance equity, access, and affordability
  - develop a Water Access and Equity Policy for your utility

## WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Creates a learning and leadership opportunity for emerging utility leaders
- Creates a space for the utility to develop a Water Access and Affordability Policy at a time where issues of access, affordability and assistance are some of the top issues on utilities' minds
- Be an example for other utilities and be a leader on issues of access, affordability and assistance

## THE PROGRAM

Fellows will:

- Participate in 3-5 virtual learning, interactive workshops with guest lectures
- Participate in periodic one-on-one calls
- Attend a workshop in Washington D.C. with all fellows from other utilities to build your network, and exchange experiences and ideas
- Build a network with utility colleagues
- Strengthen relationships with the community and other community-based stakeholders helping to ensure access and affordability
- Support the completion of the American Water Access Survey (AWAS)
- Develop a Water Access and Affordability Plan for their utility

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- (1) Full-time employees of a water or wastewater utility,
- (2) Emerging leaders poised for a leadership position in 5-10 years, and
- (3) Candidates who have a demonstrated interest and passion in improving equitable access to affordable water and wastewater services.

All emerging water utility leaders are welcome to apply. Women and Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Latino/Hispanic, and other candidates from communities underrepresented in the water sector are particularly encouraged to apply. At this time, applicants must be employed by U.S.-based utilities; we hope to include non-U.S. utilities in future cohorts.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications are being accepted until January 16, 2023.

Applicants must submit the following information:

- Basic information about the applicant, sponsor and utility
- Answers to 5 application questions (e.g., How are you personally positioned to help the utility further its commitment to equity, access, and affordability? Please provide at least one example. 300-word max.)
- Resume
- Sponsorship letter: Applicants must include a signed letter of sponsorship from an Executive-level staff member at the utility. A template for the letter is available.
- Letter of acknowledgment: Applicants and the sponsor must sign a letter acknowledging they have read the “Participation Commitments.” The letter of acknowledgement is available online.

## TIMELINE AND KEY DATES

The following are important dates:

- Applications are due by: Monday, January 16, 2023, at 11:59AM ET
- Applications will be reviewed within 2 weeks and selected applicants will be invited for virtual interviews.
- The program will start at the end of February.
- The in-person all-fellow workshop will be held in Washington D.C. in May/June 2023.



## Q&A

**Application available at:**

**<http://www.ourwatersecurity.org/waterlab>**.

**APPLY! SHARE!**

**If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact:**

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