Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy

Want to master public policymaking on Capitol Hill? Apply NOW for January-July 2022

Why a Women’s Public Policy Fellowship? The fellowships are designed to train potential leaders in public policy formation to examine issues from the perspective, experiences, and needs of women. Administered by the Women’s Congressional Policy Institute (WCPI), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization located in Washington, D.C., this program is unique – it is the only graduate-level fellowship program on Capitol Hill focused on women.

What does a Fellow do? Fellows work 40 hours each week in a congressional office as a legislative assistant on policy issues affecting women. Fellows meet weekly for issue seminars directed by the WCPI staff. Orientation for the Class of 2022 will begin in early January 2022; office placement starts by the end of that month. The program runs until the end of July 2022.

Eligibility: Students who currently are enrolled in a graduate program, or who have completed such a program within two years of the fellowship start date (January 2022), are eligible. WCPI strongly recommends that applicants complete at least nine hours of graduate coursework before applying and display serious interest in research and policymaking relevant to issues affecting women and their families.

Selection Criteria: Fellows are selected on the basis of academic competence, as well as demonstrated interest in the public policy process. They must be articulate, adaptable, and have strong writing skills. Fellows may come from virtually any field. WCPI promotes equal opportunity in its fellowship program and welcomes qualified applicants of any age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, experience, political affiliation, and academic field. Fellows must be legally eligible to work in the United States.

Award: Fellows will receive a stipend of approximately $3,400 gross per month for seven months (January-July). An additional sum of $1,000 is provided for the purchase of health insurance. Fellows are responsible for transportation to and from Washington, and for finding their own living arrangements.

The number of fellowships in 2022 will be dependent on funding. The three 2021 fellowships were made possible by grants from PepsiCo, Amgen, Comcast, the Kahn Education Foundation, and individual donors, including a number of former fellows.

To Apply: You must apply using the online application portal on WCPI’s website. The application and supporting materials must be received by WCPI no later than Monday, June 7.

Class of 2020 Fellows

Marshele Bryant, Danni Ondraskova, and Jamie Thompson are mastering public policymaking on Capitol Hill.