



SPARK POLICY INSTITUTE
igniting public policy and community change

Spark Applied Public Policy Fellowship

SPARK invites applications for its August 2017 – May 2019 Applied Public Policy Fellowship. Fellows will have an opportunity to build evaluation and research skills in a fast-paced environment while working with policymakers, communities, advocates, and other researchers to find solutions to complex societal problems.

Fellows will be part of a team of consultants who provide evaluation, research, facilitation, mediation, and policy development services to projects that have an immediate impact on health, human services, justice, education and environmental policy in Colorado and throughout the country.

The fellowship is a two-year position based in Denver, Colorado and is open to Ph.D. students or recent Ph.D. graduates. The fellowship focuses on building research skills as part of a team, including learning about participatory research, social network analysis, focus groups, key informant interviews, regulatory analysis, q-methodology, fiscal analysis, and systems and advocacy evaluation. During the latter part of the fellowship, fellows will have opportunities to lead the research component of one or more projects, including designing and implementing research, conducting the analysis, and reporting the results to policymakers and the public. Fellows will also have opportunities to co-author and author policy reports for government agencies, as well as for local and national foundations and advocacy organizations.

Fellows are expected to devote 20 hours per week to fellowship activities and are paid at \$20 per hour. Fellows work on site at Spark in Denver, CO. The fellowship is for two years, at a minimum of nine months per year, with the option of 12 months.

“The fellowship at Spark has given me the opportunity to apply my research skills to work with community members, key stakeholders, and policy makers to address problems faced by local communities. In addition, the variety of projects I have worked on have given me the opportunity to learn innovative problem solving skills and research methods not emphasized in traditional academic programs.”

~ *Nicole Tuitt*

Colorado School of Public Health

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Fellows are expected to have completed the majority of their Ph.D. program or be recent graduates of a Ph.D. program. As the fellowship includes opportunities to undertake independent research projects, competitive applications will demonstrate that the applicant has a strong foundation in research design and methods, including at least two semesters of quantitative methods, experience using SPSS or a similar statistical package (e.g., Stata or R), and interest in participatory research and working closely with stakeholders.

"In addition to giving me the opportunity to use skills I acquired in graduate school in different and creative ways, the fellowship experience has also allowed me to learn more applied research methodologies and to collaborate with individuals with incredibly diverse backgrounds. At Spark, I have been encouraged to push boundaries and seek dynamic solutions to complex social, cultural, and policy issues."
- Leigh Alexander, University of Colorado, Boulder

A complete application package will include:

- Current contact information (email, phone, address);
- A CV or resume listing work experience, coursework, GPA, and any publications;
- Two references able to speak to skills and experience in both academic and non-academic settings;
- A research- or policy-focused writing sample (no co-authored papers); and
- A letter of interest identifying your Ph.D. program and describing your experience and interest in public policy, advocacy, systems change, or social movements, evaluation, and research including information such as:
 - Short- and long-term career objectives;
 - Any professional or volunteer accomplishments or experiences you feel best demonstrate your qualifications or potential to take advantage of Fellowship opportunities;
 - Personal commitment to social and economic justice and/or diversity; and
 - Specific examples of research experience.
- Experience with Microsoft Office, including Excel, is required.

Submit applications marked FELLOW through the career section of the Spark website: <http://sparkpolicy.com/careers.htm> no later than **June 1, 2017**. Selection of the 2017-2019 Applied Public Policy Fellow will be made by **June 30th** with the expectation that they will begin work in **August 2017**. For more information about Spark Policy Institute, visit: <http://www.sparkpolicy.com/>