



Jobin-Leeds
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THE PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY & EDUCATION

announces

AVAILABILITY OF 2010 FIRST-TIME & RENEWAL GRANTS TO CREATE A

Participatory Action Research Initiative for Women of Color Leaders

In August 2010, the Jobin-Leeds Partnership for Democracy & Education (The Partnership) will accept applications for up to ten grants of \$10,000 each to work as part of a collaborative to develop a pilot Research Fellowship to understand the experiences of progressive women of color from low-income communities who are past, current or future candidates for elective office. The pilot Research Fellowship program will be established and launched in 2010 by an Oversight and Planning Committee comprised of interested individuals and organizations with the assistance of attorneys and academics.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

Research shows that women of color from low-income communities are vastly underrepresented on elected or appointed budget- and policy-making bodies. On behalf of a client, the Partnership for Democracy & Education convened more than two dozen politically engaged, experienced, progressive women of color and allies for a Visioning Process in 2009. Their task was to design alternative models for candidate development that would specifically remove barriers and provide opportunities for women of color from low income communities to run for elective office, win elections and set progressive budget and policy priorities. The group met for six five-hour work sessions over the course of six months. They explored the major inspirations and barriers, challenges, opportunities and resources available to candidates. Participants also successfully confronted dynamics of race, power and privilege.

The Visioning Group identified four (4) areas of focus that included:

- **A One Stop Resource** to serve as an access point for individuals interested in running for public office.
- **A Continuous Community Campaign** that seeks to intentionally support community leadership and democratic decision-making in the campaign, ideally building ownership and a cohort of new leaders who are pursuing a vision for their community
- **A Participatory Action Research Initiative for Women of Color** to understand the experiences of progressive women of color who are past, current or future candidates for elective office.

- **Policy Change** to insure that systemic barriers are eliminated to level the playing field for all candidates.

The Visioning Group determined that the first priority should be the development and implementation of a Research Fellowship program. An Oversight and Planning Committee has been working on the development of the Research Fellowship since January 2010. A client of the Partnership has committed to fund this work from 2009 through 2011 and the Oversight and Planning Board is actively seeking additional funding for future phases of the project.

The Participatory Action Research Initiative for Women of Color Leaders will provide a stipend to women who are past, current or future candidates for elective office to create a record of their past or current campaign experience that is meant to inspire, educate and nurture future candidates. The Visioning Group also produced a set of guiding principles which will inform the grant-making process and the work as it evolves. Work on the other areas of focus will follow in subsequent phases and is dependent on recruitment of additional funding partners.

GOAL OF RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The Partnership's goal for this participatory action research initiative is to gather information about the experiences of progressive women of color who are engaged in political and community leadership in low income communities in order to deepen the understanding of factors that influence them to inspire others. Such findings should also contribute novel understandings to research about electoral participation by women of color. Research Fellows will be politically active women of color who are deeply connected to their communities. Because of these qualities, these women will be especially qualified to investigate this subject because they are best positioned to seek out and find local experts and sources of support to women candidates and uniquely situated to solicit and gather information about women of color running for office in low-income communities. In addition, to most effectively meet the objectives of this project, an academic research institution with experience in conducting participatory action research and working with low-income women of color will be selected to support and provide guidance to the Research Fellows.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Successful applicants will join the ongoing, collaborative work on the Oversight and Planning Committee (along with the assistance of attorneys and academics) to achieve the following milestones:

- Research and ensure legal, ethical and academic standards for the Research Fellowship;
- Interview, select and approve a contract with a sponsoring academic institution with experience conducting participatory research and experience working with women of color candidates;
- Develop an outreach, recruitment, and application process for up to five Research Fellows to participate in a six-month participatory research project pilot;
- Complete the development of a website to facilitate the Fellowship outreach and application process and that will also serve as a repository for the fellows' research findings.
- Develop and implement a fundraising plan to support the Research Fellowship and other areas of focus.
- Advise and make decisions regarding the overall design, implementation and management of the Research Fellowship Initiative.

Grants to successful applicants will support their participation in the Oversight and Planning Board, which will oversee and lead the development and implementation of the Participatory Action Research Initiative for Women of Color Leaders. The Oversight and Planning Committee will steer the strategic implementation of this innovative and progressive approach that will ultimately lead to increased opportunities for women of color running from low income communities to win elective office and govern. It is expected that successful applicants attend monthly Oversight and Planning Committee meetings and actively participate in completing the tasks developed by one or two implementation teams focused on the different milestones outlined above.

FUTURE FUNDING

A client of the Partnership has made a multi-year commitment for funding through 2011. The Partnership will also be seeking additional funds for the Research Fellowship, and for the One Stop Resource, Community Campaigns and Policy Changes as identified by the Visioning Group.

TIMELINE

August 18, 2010	Deadline for Receipt of Applications, at 5 pm
August 27, 2010	Application review will be completed
August 30, 2010	Applicant organizations will receive notification.

STAFF SUPPORT

Staffing for the Oversight and Planning Board will be provided by a Partnership consultant and staff and underwritten by a client. Staff support will include meeting scheduling, coordination, team follow up, and facilitation of ethics and legal expertise. At the direction of its client, the Partnership will take leadership in the recruitment of other major funding partners to support future phases of the work while the Oversight and Planning Committee assists in securing additional donations.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must demonstrate that their institution is led by a woman of color and works to deepen democracy in communities of color in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Eligible woman of color-led organizations may apply for a grant for themselves or may sponsor other organizations or both.

DEADLINE

Grant Renewals and First Submission applications are due electronically by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18, 2010. Visit www.democracyandeducation.us to download the application.

HOW DO I APPLY?

To apply, download the GRANT RENEWAL & FIRST SUBMISSION APPLICATION FORM available at www.democracyandeducation.us.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

An information session for these grants will be conducted by Conference Call on: **Monday, August 9, 2010 from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.** RSVP to Remona L. Davis at rld@democracyandeducation.us