

Calling all Courageous Elected Leaders



In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, E Pluribus Unum (EPU) has relaunched the application for our UNUM Fellows program. It is clear that support for local elected officials is more critical than ever before as they navigate the COVID-19 recovery process and work to ensure greater equity and resilience in their communities moving forward.

Over the past year, the EPU research journey around the South found that where local leaders openly prioritize racial diversity and inclusion, there is more hope and optimism in their community's future among residents.

The program is a unique, non-partisan fellowship that aims to ensure local elected leaders in the South can

act on the issues of racial and economic equity – driving sustainable change in their communities.

The program will support leaders in generating an ambitious project with the tools to effectively work towards equity in their communities through sustainable change and collaboration. Cohort members will receive project funding of up to \$75,000, along with ongoing technical support to implement their resulting projects. Projects may seek to address COVID-19-related issues or those unrelated to the pandemic. Opportunities offered to fellows will include project planning assistance, informational learning opportunities, coaching, trainings & technical assistance, public opinion research, customized data analysis and more.

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Fellows will be asked to:

- Identify a concrete opportunity in their community that specifically addresses racial and/or economic disparities
- Develop a responsive initiative for implementation at the conclusion of the fellowship (e.g., policy reform, organizational change, public art project)
- Virtually meet as a collective, sharing lessons learned and taking part in transformative knowledge-building and engagement



Fellows will:

- Build skills for creating equitable organizations
- Design equity-driven policy
- Use data and research to affect change
- Develop strategies to build public will for transformative change
- Talk about race in a way that moves people forward

Qualifications:

- New or seasoned elected municipal or county leader (i.e., mayors, county commissioners, parish presidents, city councilmembers, school board members or law enforcement officials) with experience collaborating with others to build common understanding and solve issues
- Be in their current term of office through the end of 2021
- Possess a strong commitment to learning about and advancing racial and economic equity in their communities
- Must currently be in elected office in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia or West Virginia.

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Program partners:

PolicyLink

What Works Cities

Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings

National League of Cities (NLC) University

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for American Progress (CAP)

Hope Policy Institute

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