FAQ for Fellowship Applicants

1. How do I apply?
   a. An application link will be available at https://www.stanislauscf.org/nextgen-on-board in January 2022.

2. What is the length of the program?
   a. The fellowship program is a 2-year, or 24 month, commitment.

3. What is the application process like?
   a. Once you apply online and the application period closes, Youth Leadership Institute and Stanislaus Community Foundation will screen applications. You will then be contacted to schedule a 15-minute interview with staff from both organizations. After interviews, staff will work to select those candidates that are the best match for participating nonprofit organizations. At this point, candidates will be notified if they have been selected to move forward to a mixer with the nonprofit; as an alternate; or not selected for the program and the reason why.

4. How do I know if I am a good fit for this program?
   a. If you live and/or work in Stanislaus County, are between the ages of 18 and 26 (exceptions may apply for younger or older individuals), passionate about service as a leader of a local nonprofit organization, reliable, and willing to commit at least 15 hours a month to training and holding a board member position, then you are a great candidate for the program.

5. How many fellows will be selected?
   a. Each cohort includes about 20 fellows.
6. I am a little bit older/younger than the age range for this fellowship. Can I still apply?
   a. Yes – we are looking to create well-rounded cohorts, and someone who is a little bit younger than 18 or a little bit older than 26 may still be a great addition to a cohort.

7. I don’t have a lot of professional experience or a letter of recommendation. Can I still apply?
   a. Yes—as a fellow, you will be exposed to valuable professional development and networking opportunities. Letters of recommendation are an additional tool we use to better get to know an applicant, but the absence of a letter of recommendation will not hurt your application.

8. Do I get to choose which nonprofit board to serve on?
   a. You will be able to select your top 3 interest areas and/or organizations of preference on your application; however, placement within these areas or organizations is not guaranteed. Placements will be influenced by the number of participating nonprofits, the nonprofit focus area and its diversity needs, and the collective interests of potential fellows.

9. Who serves on the fellow selection committee?
   a. The selection committee consists of staff members from Stanislaus Community Foundation and Youth Leadership Institute. Nominees will be interviewed by the selection committee to determine readiness & commitment to participate in a two-year cohort.

10. What will I learn as a result of this fellowship?
    a. As a NextGen on Board fellow, you will be paired with a mentor from the nonprofit organization board you serve on; the mentor will provide guidance, motivation, and role modeling. In addition, you will build relationships with NextGen on Board staff, trainers, and fellow cohort members. NextGen on Board provides an effective curriculum to build your knowledge on nonprofit board governance including:
       i. Roles & responsibilities as a board member
       ii. Robert’s Rules of Order
       iii. Strengths finding
       iv. Nonprofit financials
       v. Advocacy and ambassadorship
       vi. Fundraising
       vii. Committees and meeting structure
11. I really want to participate but already have a full schedule. What is the time commitment?
   a. The time commitment is up to 15 hours per month, which includes engaging in training, preparation and attendance at board meetings, and ongoing skill development. This is a true fellowship program and includes comprehensive capacity building, coaching, and peer support. The first 12 months consist of monthly trainings and office hours, and the subsequent 12 months consist of coaching and other professional development opportunities.

12. Are fellows paid?
   a. Stanislaus Community Foundation is providing a $1,000 stipend per term for NextGen Fellows (a stipend for a 24-month commitment is $2,000).

13. Who should I ask for letters of recommendation and how should these be submitted?
   a. Letters of recommendation are an additional tool used by the selection committee to better get to know an applicant, but the absence of a letter of recommendation does not hurt your application. If you wish to submit a letter of recommendation, it should be from someone who can speak to your leadership, commitment, and goals. The application will provide a space for attachments.