

PROGRAM

Legacy

"It is in the national interest that our future leaders in all walks of life have opportunities to observe firsthand the important and challenging tasks of American government."

President Johnson's Executive Order creating The White House Fellows Program, October 3, 1964



In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson founded the White House Fellows Program to give promising young leaders "first-hand, high-level experience in the workings of the Federal Government and to increase their sense of participation in national affairs." After forty-five years, this legacy continues under President Barack Obama. Since the program's inception, more than 600 outstanding men and women have become White House Fellows, each chosen because of their extraordinary leadership ability and service to others. Under President and Mrs. Obama's leadership, the White House Fellows Program continues to be the nation's most prestigious public service fellowship.

THE WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

*Leadership &
Public Service*

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON
WHITE HOUSE FELLOWSHIPS
Washington, D.C. 20503
202.395.4522
www.whitehouse.gov/fellows



2008-2009 class of Fellows enjoy a discussion with First Lady Michelle Obama.

Being a White House Fellow is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The purpose of the White House Fellows Program is to provide accomplished and highly motivated young Americans with first-hand experience in the process of governing the nation and a sense of personal involvement in the leadership of society.

Engagement in the work of the Federal Government lies at the heart of a White House Fellowship. Selected individuals typically spend a year as a full-time, paid Fellow to senior White House Staff, Cabinet Secretaries and other top-ranking government officials. Responsibilities range from chairing interagency meetings and designing and implementing federal policies, to drafting speeches for Cabinet Secretaries and representing their agencies on Capitol Hill.



1967-1968 class of Fellows meet with President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The education program is an important aspect of the Fellowship experience, and increases the Fellow's exposure to renowned leaders from the private and public sectors. White House Fellows participate in off-the-record, candid discussions with dozens of individuals including Supreme Court Justices, Cabinet Secretaries, senior White House officials, Members of Congress, military leaders, journalists, historians, business executives, and leaders of non-government organizations. Fellows also study U.S. policy in action both domestically and abroad by participating in policy study-trips during the year.

In addition to the education program, White House Fellows have a strong legacy of service to the Washington, D.C. community. Each class completes one or more community service projects during their year as a Fellow.

Perhaps the most enriching component of the program is class fellowship, which often results in enduring friendships. Alumni convene at yearly meetings in Washington, D.C., and eagerly welcome new Fellows into one of the most prestigious networks of professionals and leaders in the nation.

Since 1964, White House Fellowships have offered outstanding Americans the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with each other and the world around them. In return for the privilege of participating in the Fellowship year, alumni have gone on to become leaders in their respective communities and professions, and have continued their lifelong commitment to the Fellowship's mission of active citizenship and service to the nation.

Selection as a White House Fellow is based on a combination of the following criteria:

- ◆ A record of remarkable professional achievement early in one's career.
- ◆ Evidence of leadership skills and the potential for further growth.
- ◆ A demonstrated commitment to public service.
- ◆ The skills to succeed at the highest levels of the Federal Government, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.



"What I learned about government as a White House Fellow was the key to the opportunities that came my way."

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell (WHF '72-73)

PREREQUISITES

- ◆ Applicants must be U.S. citizens.
- ◆ Employees of the Federal Government are not eligible unless they are career military personnel.
- ◆ Applicants must have completed their undergraduate education and be working in their chosen professions.
- ◆ There are no formal age restrictions. However, the fellowship program was created to give selected Americans the experience of government service early in their careers.



White House Fellow Nadine Gracia reading with local students.

Selection

PROCESS

FEBRUARY 1

Application Deadline

Online applications are due on or before this date.

MARCH/APRIL

Regional Finalist Selection

Applicants are notified whether they have been selected as regional finalists, and of the time and location for regional interviews.

MAY

Notification of National Finalists

National finalists selected from the regional interviews are notified.

JUNE

Selection Weekend

National finalists are interviewed over a 2 1/2 day period by members of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships at a location near Washington, D.C.

Presidential Selection

The White House Press Office announces the President's official selection of the incoming class of White House Fellows.

JULY

Placement Week

Fellows interview with principals in government agencies for their fellowship year work assignments.

SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31

Inclusive dates of the fellowship year.

Applications are available on our website, and must be completed online. Please visit our website, www.whitehouse.gov/fellows, for further details and instructions.