



Institute for Policy Studies

New Mexico Fellowship

The Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) is the nation's oldest multi-issue progressive think tank. IPS works with social movements to forge viable and sustainable policies to promote democracy, justice, human rights, and diversity. IPS has links to activists and scholars across the nation and around the world and serves as a bridge between progressive forces in government and grassroots activists, and between movements in the U.S. and those in the developing world.

Description:

The New Mexico Fellowship is an 18-month, paid, public policy fellowship, with the first year housed at the Institute for Policy Studies in our Washington, DC office, and the final 6 months working with a non-profit in New Mexico. This fellowship program seeks to help mentor a new generation of progressive leaders in New Mexico. In the past, this fellowship has recruited diverse candidates that are now serving New Mexico in multiple ways. Each of our former IPS New Mexico fellows are back working in New Mexico non-profits, practicing law, and shaking up legislation. and one is studying law at the University of New Mexico.

The New Mexico Fellowship provides the opportunity for college graduates and/or young scholar-activists residing in New Mexico to come to IPS to be trained in public scholarship, a term we define as the connection between grassroots activism and policy research. Through the fellowship, participants sharpen their knowledge of the progressive landscape and policy world, and develop their capacities to think, write, research, and make connections to social movements. After learning about the organizational structure and operations of a thriving non-profit in Washington, D.C., fellows will return to New Mexico for a six month paid placement at a non-profit organization. The Fellow will work with our advisory board, which includes former Fellows, to find a placement in New Mexico that is a fit for their skills and interests. Past fellows have been placed with groundbreaking institutions such as Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter and New Mexico Center for Law and Poverty.

Each fellow receives hands-on experience by working closely with 1-2 IPS projects under the individualized mentorship from our IPS public scholars. We believe that each scholar-activist brings a unique skillset to the table. Accordingly, upon acceptance, we tailor the fellowship to participants' personal interests by pairing them with IPS projects for 2 six-month segments

where they will become an essential part of that project's staff. Fellows also have the opportunity to learn effective fundraising and communication strategies by working with the development and communications teams in addition to their personalized projects.

Fellows can expect to work on at least one of the following IPS projects in 2019:

- **Global Economy, CEOs and Workers:** IPS expert Sarah Anderson is leading work around worker/CEO inequality, executive compensation, tax rules and loopholes, and supporting the organizing of low wage worker groups by providing them research and writing to enhance their campaigns. Prospective Fellows with experience and interest in low-wage worker organizing would potentially have hands-on experience working with groups as a collaborator. NM Fellows who were interested in the CEO/corporations side of the equation could learn and work on executive compensation, tax loopholes, and other policy work.
- **Mining, Trade, and Latin America:** IPS expert Manuel Perez-Rocha is working with groups in Latin America to defend against the environmental, social, and economic consequences of mining. He also works on issues around international trade agreements, for example NAFTA and TPP. The NM Fellow, especially if they had bilingual Spanish-English capacity, could help develop research and campaigning materials for this work.
- **Criminalization of Poverty:** IPS expert Karen Dolan leads work around the criminal justice system with a particular focus on how race and poverty intersect. The NM Fellow would add capacity to research, storytelling, writing op-eds, and developing innovative projects that are responding to current events around poverty, racial justice, and criminalization.
- **Climate Justice:** IPS work on climate justice is focused on both domestic climate inequality issues, for example clean power and democratic control, as well as international climate issues, for example climate funding at the UN.
- **Poor People's Campaign and Congressional Progressive Caucus Center:** IPS has served as a key research arm to the Poor People's Campaign, a national Call for Moral Revival that is uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality. IPS has also recently partnered with the Congressional Progressive Caucus Center to provide independent progressive research and analysis on key emerging issues for Congress. Through either partnership, New Mexico fellows could help us provide timely analysis of emerging legislation, offering bill summaries, talking points and message guidance to campaign strategists and Congress members.

Who We Are Looking For:

Candidates are selected from two streams of applicants residing in New Mexico:

- Recent college graduates (BA or MA) who would benefit from mentoring and work at IPS

- Members of activist groups where IPS and the group feel it would benefit the individual to have training in public scholarship in Washington

The ideal candidate is:

- Motivated, flexible, organized
- Able to multi-task and navigate between demanding and sometimes tedious work of research, and the pace and energy of campaigns
- A strong writer, reader, and critical thinker, with interest in learning how to improve their writing to be accessible for multiple audiences
- Committed to building analysis across issue areas
- Dedicated to building relationships with thought leaders and social movements. IPS is a warm, learning community, and we'd like someone to join us who is seeking to build community with us!
- A self-starter. We are looking for someone who will take initiative in defining what they want to learn, approach work challenges with a problem-solving mentality, and who will speak up when there are gaps in their work.
- Able to work independently and in a team
- Passionate about, and has already devoted time and effort to, social justice

Salary/Benefits:

The New Mexico Fellow is required to come to IPS for one year, and then to work with a New Mexico non-profit for six months to use the skills acquired at IPS to further public scholarship and activism in New Mexico.

The New Mexico Fellowship is a full-time Fellowship with a yearly compensation of \$38,000 (before taxes), paid semi-monthly. The Fellow will receive three weeks of paid vacation and 12 days of sick leave. Full medical, vision, dental, and life insurance coverage is also provided. IPS staff will also connect the Fellow to networking and professional development opportunities, and the Fellow will be included in all IPS staff-wide activities. In the second portion of the program, the Fellow will be paid at that same rate in for the final 6 months with the New Mexico non-profit (a pre-tax total of \$19,000 for six months).

We want this fellowship to be an incredible and safe learning experience. We will closely monitor the COVID-19 safety protocols and we will plan for the fellow to relocate to DC when it is safe to do so. We presently expect that the fellow will either begin with us in June in DC or that the first few months of the fellowship will be remote and in person beginning in September. Our June start-date is intentional. To ensure the fellow is plugged into our broader IPS community, they will begin their fellowship with our remote Next Leaders cohort. The Next Leaders program is a professional development program for scholar activists and comprises 12+ workshops on public scholarship and progressive frameworks.

Travel expenses to/from DC and New Mexico are covered at the beginning and end of the fellowship, and IPS staff will advise the incoming Fellow about D.C. housing options. After the

Fellow is accepted, IPS staff will be available to advise and support the Fellow in making the transition to DC.

We would like the New Mexico Fellow to begin on June 1, 2021.

How to Apply:

Applications are due by March 12th and we aim to interview candidates in mid to late March and select the fellow by early to mid April.

Your application should include the following in a single PDF file:

1. A cover letter which includes the following information:
 - Tell us about which of the issue areas above you'd like to work on at IPS. What excites you about them? What areas of policy and research would you like to dig into?
 - Tell us about a social movement group that you're passionate about (*for example: an group in your community working on a local issue, or a national coalition that you're part of, or a global social movement like the Movement for Black Lives*). What energizes you about this movement group? How this group is making change?
 - What skills, experience, and/or knowledge would you bring to our team?
 - What do you want to gain from this experience to better your activism in New Mexico?
2. Resume
3. A 2-4 page writing sample (e.g., excerpt from a research paper, an article, or letter to the editor)
4. The contact information for 3 references

Email materials in one PDF file to: apply@ips-dc.org using "New Mexico Fellowship" as the subject line. Please also complete a short demographic survey at [New Mexico Fellow Survey](#).

Due to the large volume of applications, only applicants that are moving to the next round will be contacted by the Search Committee. Thank you so much for your interest in the New Mexico Fellowship. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Institute for Policy Studies is strengthened by the diversity of our network and our differences in background, culture, experience, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, and much more. We strongly encourage applications from people of color, women, the LGBTQIA community, and other groups that have historically been subject to discrimination.