



2016 - 2017

CONNECTING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP CLASS

APPLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT



Submission Deadline: May 18, 2016

Learn more at ABFE.org

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ABFE

OVERVIEW

ABFE was established in 1971, by forward-thinking, Black foundation executives to promote effective and responsive philanthropy in Black communities. As the first official affinity group of the Council on Foundations, ABFE is the champion of diverse leadership in philanthropy. Progress is defined by a substantial increase in the number of Blacks as leaders and emerging leaders within the philanthropic field, as well as, new and more effective dollars targeted to priority issues in Black communities. Today, ABFE counts among its members some of the most influential staff, trustees, and donors of grantmaking organizations who are intimately involved in shaping the focus, decision-making, and response of foundations toward Black communities. For more information please visit **ABFE.org** or contact ABFE at 646.230.0306.

A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities

OVERVIEW

2016 - 2017 CONNECTING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP

The ABFE Connecting Leaders Fellowship is a year-long experience designed to sharpen the skills and strengthen the leadership capacity of foundation staff, donors, and trustees who are committed to assisting Black communities through philanthropy. Fellows have the opportunity to learn from seasoned grantmakers and peers on a regular basis, understand how to be more effective agents for change within their institutions, and participate in a network that focuses on innovative solutions to community challenges. Fellows attend a week-long Leadership Summit and are assigned an executive coach. In addition, each fellow is required to complete a community-based learning project during the fellowship year. This can be volunteer work or a research project on a topic of interest. *Please note that fellows will be based at their home institutions and in their communities during the fellowship year.*

We will host a information and Q&A webinar for anyone interested in applying to fellowship on **Thursday, March 22nd at 2pm EST**. You may also see Team ABFE at #EmpowerPhilanthropy, our annual conference, April 7-9, in Baltimore. Visit www.abfe.org to learn more. **You may register for the webinar, [here](#).**

Who is Eligible to Apply?

The Fellowship is open to anyone that fits the following profile:

- ◆ 2+ years of demonstrated experience as a grantmaker, trustee, or donor in organized philanthropy
- ◆ A deep-rooted commitment to assisting Black communities through philanthropy
- ◆ Ability to attend the ABFE Leadership Summit that will be held **November 14-18, 2016 in Oakland, California**. Participation in the Summit is MANDATORY. ABFE covers the costs associated with travel, lodging at the designated host hotel, and group meals.
- ◆ An active ABFE Membership is not a pre-requisite to apply to the Fellowship, however, all Connecting Leaders Fellows must be current members of ABFE at the time the Fellowship starts. For information about membership, visit us online at **ABFE.org**.

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THE EXPERIENCE

Time Commitment

Participants in the Connecting Leaders Fellowship Program can expect the following time commitment:

- ◆ The Leadership Summit is a week-long commitment with full days lasting through dinner. Breaks are scheduled to allow for email check-ins, however, participants should anticipate being busy for the entire week.
- ◆ There will be a one hour, monthly conference call/webinar for the cohort (see anticipated dates below)
- ◆ Participants in the Fellowship receive 10 hours of Executive Coaching, usually by phone/skype. These appointments are made directly between the Fellow and the Coach at their convenience.
- ◆ Participants in the Fellowship should expect to spend an additional 3 or 4 hours a month preparing for coaching sessions or working on their Community Based Learning Project.
- ◆ Fellows are encouraged to attend the ABFE Annual Conference. Please note, the Connecting Leaders Fellowship Program **does not** provide for Annual Conference expenses, hotel nor airfare.

Tentative Conference Call Dates

In order to help you plan, we have set aside the following tentative dates for Fellowship Webinars (webcam used). *All calls will be held at 4 pm ET.*

- ◆ Wednesday, September 14th – *Welcome to CLFP; Intro to 360 Process & Executive Coaching*
- ◆ Wednesday, October 12th - *Introduction to the Summit Host City*
- ◆ Wednesday, November 16th
- ◆ Wednesday, December 7th
- ◆ Wednesday, January 13th
- ◆ Wednesday, February 10th
- ◆ Wednesday, March 9th
- ◆ Wednesday, April 13th
- ◆ Wednesday, May 11th
- ◆ Wednesday, June 8th
- ◆ Wednesday, July 13th

Program Fee

The Connecting Leaders Fellowship is an outstanding professional development opportunity, which includes access to invaluable resources and supports. CLFP offers fellows: one-on-one Executive Coaching; rigorous scientifically-based assessments 360-degree evaluation; the week-long Leadership Summit (including airfare, hotel, meals, ground transportation, and learning experiences; and monthly facilitated cohort calls.

The cost of the Fellowship to Fellows is **\$1,000.00**, to be paid upon acceptance to the program. Requests for payment plans and limited financial aid will be considered .

For questions about the participation fee, please contact Edward Jones at ejones@abfe.org.

Application Procedures

The application consists of four essay questions (300 words each), one letter of recommendation to be uploaded, and an uploaded copy of your resume. You can download a sample application and find additional information about the letter of recommendation on the ABFE website, ABFE.org.



IMPORTANT DATES

APPLICATION DEADLINE:	May 18, 2016 (Due by 12:59 pm EST)
APPLICANT NOTIFICATION:	July 15, 2016
ABFE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT:	November 14 - 18, 2016

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