

The Arab American Leadership Program (AALP)

Application Deadline: 11:59 pm on Friday, December 30th, 2022

About the Program

The Arab American Leadership Program (AALP) increases access for Arab American youth by **awarding summer 2023 internships** in federal and state government agencies, Capitol Hill, and in other key public service institutions in Washington, D.C.

The AALP seeks to:

- Increase the number of Arab Americans engaged in federal public policy;
- Create networking opportunities between Arab American youth and experienced public policy professionals; and
- Produce a pipeline of Arab Americans with strong public policy experience

By increasing the number of Arab Americans working in the public service sector, the Arab American Leadership Program (AALP) will help strengthen the political power of the Arab American community, ensuring that federal agencies and policy makers are reflective of our community and its related needs. This program will also empower young Arab Americans and create networking and mentorship opportunities, leadership development workshops, and conversations with Arab American leaders, their allies, and others serving in key public policy positions. The AALP will allow young Arab Americans to gain a complex understanding of the federal government, the legislative process, and how to shape policy in their ultimate professions. We seek to create a network of AALP fellows that have a deep passion for engaging in public policy.

This program is organized by the National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC) and funded by the Arab American Leadership Fund, housed at the Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP).

You can learn more about the AALF at: <https://www.centeraap.org/funds/view-our-funds/the-arab-american-leadership-fund-aalf/>

About the AALP

Awarded applicants will be placed at a summer 2023 fellowship position in either a state or federal government agency, Capitol Hill, or a key public service institution in Washington D.C. Fellows will be provided a stipend of \$3,000. Assistance for transportation and housing is also available to those who qualify based on financial need (up to \$2,000). Additional details:

- The AALP is organized by the National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC) and funded by the Arab American Leadership Fund, housed at the Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP).
- Once you apply, you will be contacted by NNAAC staff to discuss your application. Accepted applications will be connected to a Congressional office based on the office's needs and interests in candidates. From there, you will interview with the Congressional office for their available internship position. Progression through this stage does not guarantee a congressional internship; ultimately, that decision will be made between you and the offices you interview with.
- The Summer 2023 AALP cohort is expected to run between May to August, with official start and end dates to be determined between the Congressional office and the accepted applicant.

Eligibility and Requirements:

- Must be over the age of 20 and either an undergraduate (junior or senior) or graduate student enrolled in college at an accredited college or university in the United States of America, or who have previously graduated from such program
- Must identify as Arab American or MENA
- Applicants applying for additional housing and transportation support must demonstrate financial need:
 - For currently enrolled students, applicant must have a completed FASFA on file with the institution's Financial Aid Office
 - For recent graduates, applicant must provide a statement of financial need
- Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher
- Applicant must complete the application and interview rounds for the fellowship position

Application:

1. Fill out the application form online: <https://www.centeraap.org/grants/scholarships/the-arab-american-leadership-program-application/>
2. Submit a personal statement, two short answer responses, two letters of recommendation from non-family members, a most recent college transcript (unofficial OK), a resume or CV, and an up-to-date Student Aid Report (if applicable).

Personal Statement

Submit an essay of *no more than two 8.5" x 11" typed, double-spaced pages, size 12 font, with 1-inch margins* describing the following:

- Career aspirations
- Reasons for choosing the advocacy/policy field and career preparation
- What impact would being supported by the Arab American Leadership Program have on you
- Leadership and volunteer activities in your community

Short Answer Questions

Complete responses to two short-answer questions of *no more than 150 words* describing the following:

- Where do you see yourself in five years and how might this fellowship program help you get there?
- How might this fellowship help you become a better advocate, public servant, or community leader?

Letters of Recommendation

We require you submit **ONE** non-family letters of recommendation, additional letters are optional. Each letter must be signed and on official letterhead. Your letter writer must explain their relationship to you and provide their contact information within the letter. If your recommenders prefer to deliver their letters directly to the AALF Decision Committee, please instruct them to do so at this link:

<http://www.centeraap.org/scholarship-letter-of-recommendation-form/>

Note: We will accept letters of recommendation submissions through January 20th without penalty.

College Transcript

Submit your most recent college transcript (unofficial OK) with your application. If you wish to submit your transcripts directly, please mail to:

**AALP Committee
ATTN: Mikala Cox
2651 Saulino Court
Dearborn MI 48120**

Resume or Curriculum Vitae

Submit a resume or CV that lists any work and/or volunteer experiences you've had. Also include any honors or awards you have received.

Student Aid Report (SAR) and/or Statement of Financial Need

For currently enrolled applicants: Please complete the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) application and submit a PDF copy of your federal SAR with your application. If you need help filling out the FAFSA form, please contact the college or university's Office of Financial Aid. **For recent graduates:** Please provide a statement of financial need.

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Please direct any questions to Mikala Cox at mcox@accesscommunity.org.