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## Move for America Fellowship

### Position Description: LeadMN – College Students Connecting for Change Basic Needs

**Project Period:** August 2023 - September 2024

**Site Name:** LeadMN – College Students Connecting for Change

**Location:** Virtual with occasional travel to college campuses across the state.

#### Goal of the Project

Over the last six years, students have been leading a movement to address students' basic needs at Minnesota colleges and universities. This work started with a focus on addressing food insecurity with the passage of the Hunger Free Campus Act in 2019. A study that same year by the Hope Center found that 2 in 5 Minnesota community college students experienced food insecurity in the last 30 days.

Then the pandemic placed a spotlight on students' struggles with mental health. In response students continued their advocacy at the Minnesota legislature with passed the Basic Needs Reduction Act (State Statute 136F.202) and the Mental Health Awareness Act (State Statute 136F.20) in 2021. Then during the 2023 legislative session, legislators allocated significant resources to address student basic needs with \$2.3 million in funding for the Hunger Free Campus grants, \$7 million for funding student emergency grants, and \$6.3 million allocated to Minnesota State for supporting student.

Now is an opportune time to assess this progress and chart a course forward on how Minnesota higher education institutions can bring structural changes to how colleges support and address food insecurity, mental health, housing, and transportation challenges that hold students back from completing their higher education goals.

#### Project Objectives

- Recruit 5 student leaders to help shape the policy recommendations of the Basic Needs Working Group that was created by the Minnesota legislature.

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- Host 7 community listening sessions on campuses to gather insight into the challenges students face around basic needs and identify policy recommendations.
  - Organize 5 expert briefings on each topic (food insecurity, mental health, housing insecurity, transportation) where student leaders can ask state and national experts on each topic to help identify best practices to include in the policy recommendations.
  - Work with student leaders to draft the student version of the basic needs report.

### Responsibilities

- Work to develop effective strategies to engage students within the two-year college association to get feedback on the basic needs challenges they face and hear about potential solutions.
- Recruit, train and develop 5 student basic needs interns to support the outreach around this project.
- Organize 7 community forums about basic needs on college campuses.
- Coordinate 5 virtual sessions with policy experts to dive deep on best practices in basic needs.
- Support students in drafting policy recommendations to be included final report of the basic needs working group.

### Eligibility

- Must be 18 years old by start date.
- Must be a U.S. citizen, legal permanent resident, refugee, asylee, or DACA recipient.
- Must be able to commit to a year-long program from September 2023 - July 2024, with a full-time work week (35 hours per week daytime hours, Monday-Friday).
- We welcome applicants from any location, but you must be willing to live and work in Minnesota during the 2023-24 term of service.

### Qualifications

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Fellows are not required to have had previous job experience. This is an entry level position designed to catalyze your career and leadership development. We do, though, seek the following traits in all Fellows:

- **Curiosity** - genuine interest to learn with and from others
- **Growth** - commitment to continuous learning about self and others
- **Teamwork** - capable of using collaboration and teamwork to achieve goals
- **Community** - desire to work in and with a community and in team environments
- **Accountability** - take responsibility for actions and their impact on others
- **Leadership** - take initiative and demonstrate leadership experience

In addition, we are seeking candidates who:

- Self-motivated, team player with the ability to meet deadlines, remain flexible, and adjust to changing priorities in a fast-paced environment.
- Strong organizational skills, with keen attention to details, as well as excellent problem-solving abilities.
- Demonstrated commitment and history of working with diverse student and community populations.
- Good written and oral communications skills

### Living Stipend and Benefits

- \$22,800 annual living stipend
- \$6,000 housing support
- Up to \$1,000 in relocation assistance
- Earn a \$6,895 education award for future education or to repay school loans
- Health insurance
- 80+ hours Inclusive Leadership & Community Engagement training
- Professional and peer mentorship
- [Find all AmeriCorps VISTA benefits here](#)

### About the Fellowship

The Move for America Fellowship, in partnership with AmeriCorps VISTA, is a paid, 12-month immersive service learning experience grounded in community engagement.

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Move for America Fellows build the capacity of community-based organizations by convening diverse community voices in decisions that affect their lives.

All Fellows participate in our Inclusive Leadership training program, which includes over 80 hours of learning together with your cohort of Fellows, focused on intercultural communication, navigating conflict, engaging communities, and professional growth.

### **Commitment to Inclusion & Equal Opportunity Employer**

Move for America's mission is to bridge divides and strengthen civic dialogue. We work to create an inclusive and thriving society where all voices matter and where no person is marginalized for their identity. Move for America is an equal opportunity employer and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any kind in any part of our business and partnerships. We hire talent with a transparent and equitable process for all who apply. All employment decisions are made without regard to age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, medical history, or any other protected statuses. We believe our differences make us stronger and encourage all interested candidates to apply. [Read our full Commitment to Inclusion and Equal Opportunity Employer Statement here.](#)

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