



ABFE

A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities

2020-2021

Connecting Leaders Fellowship Program

**Application Announcement
Submission Deadline:
Friday, September 4, 2020**

About ABFE

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](https://abfe.org) or contact Tekecha Morgan, Program Associate for ABFE, at tmorgan@abfe.org.

Program Overview

The ABFE Connecting Leaders Fellowship Program (CLFP) 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. Fellowship cohort participants 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.

Cohort members attend a week-long Leadership Summit and are assigned an executive coach. In addition, each cohort member 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 cohort members will be based at their home institutions and in their communities during the fellowship year. We will host an informational webinar, for anyone interested in applying, on Wednesday August 19, at 2:00 PM ET. To register for the webinar, click on the link below.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, September 4, 2020

**INFORMATION AND Q&A WEBINAR:
Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 2pm ET**



**For information webinar
register here**



Who is Eligible to Apply?

The United Nations declared 2015-2024 as the International Decade of People of African Descent. Many of us represent and celebrate Blackness, but we don't, often, fully embrace the diversity and breadth of it. The nuanced heritage of Black people has been celebrated and disparaged across the globe. Our cohort experience always gives us room to celebrate our rich diversity.

With that, we will encourage you to tell us & celebrate your experiences through your application. What are your connections? How can you strengthen your own story and use it to catalyze greater impact in your work?

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

- 2+ years of demonstrated experience as a grantmaker, trustee, or donor in organized philanthropy.
- A demonstrated philanthropic commitment to assisting Black people and communities.
- Ability to attend the ABFE Leadership Summit that will be held May 10 - May 15, 2021 in Washington, DC. Participation in the Summit is MANDATORY. ABFE covers the costs associated with travel, lodging at the designated host hotel and group meals. (health or travel restrictions will be monitored).
- An active ABFE Membership is not a prerequisite to apply to the Fellowship, however, all Connecting Leaders Fellowship participants must be current members of ABFE at the time the Fellowship program begins and for the entire cohort period. For information about membership, contact Evelyn Rivera, director of membership and special events for ABFE, at erivera@abfe.org.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, September 4, 2020



Apply now

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 90-minute (unless otherwise indicated), monthly conference call/webinar for the cohort.
- All calls/webinars will be held at 2:00 PM ET and we expect all cohort participants to participate. Should unforeseen circumstances arise (personal or professional), we appreciate advance notice.
- Participants in the Fellowship receive 10 hours of Executive Coaching, usually by phone/Skype. These appointments are made directly between the cohort member 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 your Community Based Learning Project.

TENTATIVE MONTHLY WEBINAR DATES

To help you plan, we have set aside the following tentative dates for Fellowship conference calls/webinars (webcam used).

***All calls will be held at 2:00 PM ET.**

- Wednesday, September 23, 2020
Welcome to CLFP; Intro to 360° Process and Executive Coaching
- Wednesday, October 21, 2020
- Tuesday, November 17- Thursday, November 19, 2020
Leadership Summit Virtual Kickoff
- Wednesday, December 9, 2020
- Wednesday, January 13, 2021
- Wednesday, February 10, 2021
- Wednesday, March 24, 2021
- Wednesday, April 21, 2021
- Monday, May 10 - May 15, 2021
Leadership Summit in Washington, DC
- Wednesday, June 9, 2021

We will host some sessions with CLFP alum throughout the cohort year. You may be invited to participate in additional ABFE webinars and convenings throughout the year.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- The Connecting Leaders Fellowship is an outstanding professional development opportunity, which includes access to invaluable resources and supports. CLFP offers cohort members: one-on-one Executive Coaching; rigorous scientifically-based assessments 360° evaluation; the weeklong Leadership Summit (including airfare, hotel, meals, ground transportation, and learning experiences; and monthly facilitated cohort calls.
- The cost of the Fellowship to Fellows is \$2,500.00, to be paid upon acceptance to the program. Requests for financial aid is limited. The application consists of five (5) essay questions, one 3-5 minute video, one letter of recommendation, and a copy of your resume or CV.



**For questions about the Fellowship, please contact
Tekecha Morgan, program associate, at tmorgan@abfe.org**



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

INFORMATION AND Q&A WEBINAR:

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 2pm ET

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Friday, September 4, 2020* (*Due by 11:59 PM ET)

APPLICANT NOTIFICATION:

Friday, September 11, 2020

CLFP LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (VIRTUAL KICKOFF):

Tuesday, November 17-19, 2020

CLFP LEADERSHIP SUMMIT:

Monday, May 10 - May 15, 2021 – Washington, DC



For information webinar
register here



Apply here



CLFP Application – Questions

All fellows are required to participate in the ABFE Leadership Summit, which is scheduled May 10 -15, 2021.

Are you available to attend the five-day ABFE Leadership Summit & Conference, if you are selected?

Are you a current member of ABFE?

If yes, are you an institutional or individual member?

Have you attended an ABFE conference or other meeting/convening?

If yes, when (as best as you can recall)

Are you affiliated with a Blacks Philanthropic Network? (list the organizations or link)

If yes, who?

In the Connecting Leaders Fellowship, we often speak of "stepping into a leadership moment," which are those opportunities when a change needs to occur and someone has to catalyze that change. Often, the "leader" in these moments does not necessarily have the position or authority to lead the change, yet he or she leads, nonetheless. Describe a "leadership moment," you have encountered. What change needed to occur? Did the change take place? What role did you play? What did you learn about yourself as a leader from this experience?

Tell us about experiences you have had leading teams, projects, or initiatives. From the successful experiences, what did you do to make it successful? From those in which the outcome did not meet your expectations, what were the challenges? How will you set up your next opportunity for success from the outset?

What issues or challenges facing Black Communities are of most interest to you at this time? What role do you see organized philanthropy playing in addressing these issues or challenges more effectively?

We often speak of ABFE as the place where "personal passion connects with professional mission." Please reflect upon the journey of your career to date and anticipate the career you want to create going forward. What difference do you want to make through your work? What skills and experiences do you need to gather to meet your goals? What role do you see the Connecting Leaders Fellowship playing in your career journey? Check out The Exit Interview to learn about some experiences from current and former Black professionals in philanthropy.

ABFE recently launched the Black Social Change Funders Network. It includes our case for Black social change. Tell us, what does Black Social Change mean to you?

ABFE turns 50 next year. Please provide a 3-5 minute video that shares your thoughts on the importance of culture and legacy.



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