

**Great Lakes Consortium for International Training & Development
is Looking for U.S. Mentors for 2022-2023 Professional Fellows Delegation
from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania & Slovakia**

Great Lakes Consortium for International Training & Development (GLC) is currently recruiting U.S. Mentors for their European fellows from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. European Fellows come to the United States in two groups: Fall 2022 Delegation (September 23 to November 4, 2022) and Spring 2023 Delegation (April 28 to June 9, 2023). U.S. Mentors would host 2-3 fellows from two countries in their host organization for four weeks within the respective delegation. (The first and last week of the European Fellows' six-week fellowship in the U.S. will be joint training and activities with their delegation in Detroit, Michigan, Toledo, Ohio, Chicago, Illinois and Washington, D.C.) In return, U.S. Mentors get an opportunity for a reciprocal visit to their fellow's home countries to provide trainings and support local community organizing efforts.

The Professional Fellows Program trains community organizers on Governance and Society and this year's program theme is "Empowering Citizen-Led Democracy." The program focuses on minority and rural empowerment and fellows come from diverse sectors including environmental justice, non-formal education, youth engagement, housing advocacy, labor rights, gender equity, disability access, Roma communities, refugee and migrant rights, LGBTQIA, among others. The GLC Professional Fellows program has been funded since 2011 by the U.S. State Department and places fellows with host organizations for their four-week internship in cities throughout the United States. This opportunity is open to any community organization across the U.S. which has an interest in sharing community organizing practices with European Fellows in their home countries. The U.S. State Department is especially looking for new U.S. host organizations and mentors who have not previously participated in the Professional Fellows Program before and applications are open to past GLC community partners and alumni mentors.

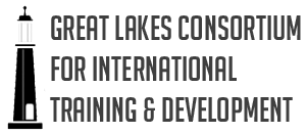
European Fellows typically range in ages from 24 to 40 years old and have several years of professional experience to bring to host organizations, including serving in leadership positions in their communities and organizations. European fellows all speak English well and many speak other languages, including Spanish. As a result, European Fellows are encouraged to lead and/or contribute to projects and activities for host organizations during the four-week internship, in addition to learning from and working with their U.S. Mentor.

In addition to the potential expenses-paid reciprocal visit, U.S. Mentors build global and cultural competency and experiences with community organizing leaders from Central and Eastern Europe, as well as access to an international alumni network of over 100 U.S. Mentors and over 400 European fellows.

Expectations for a U.S. Mentor:

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is a program of Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) since 1999 in cooperation
with Bowling Green State University, the University of Toledo, and Lourdes University.

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A U.S. Mentor hosts 2-3 European Fellows at their organization by way of a 35 hours-per-week professional learning environment and supporting social and cultural connections in their community. U.S. Mentors are also asked to provide a first-day orientation to host organizations' rules and culture, a weekly check-in meeting to support two-way communication and to plan for the week ahead, and an exit interview with their fellows before their departure. In addition, U.S. Mentors are asked to support the development of the European Fellow's Individual Project Plan, a six-to-nine-month project they will implement after returning to their home country and to plan their reciprocal visit's activities and goals. Online communication before the European fellows' visit will help to finalize the fellows' agenda and after the internship, online collaboration will help to prepare the U.S. mentor for their travel and planning of their European agenda.

U.S. Mentors are also expected to recruit Fellows' Host Families in their community: U.S. Mentors recruit and coordinate local Host Families for European Fellows during their four-week internship. Host Families are expected to provide one clean, small bedroom per fellow with access to a private or shared bathroom, and access to refrigerator and kitchen for storage and cooking meals, preparing breakfast, and packing lunches. European Fellows have their own funding for food and transportation expenses, so Host Families are not expected to provide food. Joint activities and assistance with coordination of transportation, especially in cities with limited public transportation, is appreciated and encouraged by Host Families and U.S. Mentors but is also not a requirement. U.S. Mentors can serve as Host Families, but it's encouraged to find someone else as you will already be spending so much time with your fellows.

If you are interested, please contact GLC Program Staff by Friday, July 15, 2022 so we can learn more about your organization and find a match with fellows that is mutually beneficial. Currently, we are focusing on the Fall 2022 delegation, so please reach out to us if your schedule would accommodate this delegation (September 30-October 28, 2022). We are taking rolling applications for Spring 2023 European Fellows as well.

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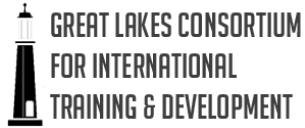
About Great Lakes Consortium for International Training & Development:

The Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development (GLC) program facilitates professional, cultural, and educational exchanges between the U.S. and the world to provide local impact. Programs utilize organization and partnership expertise in Youth Leadership and Development, Rural Development and Entrepreneurship, and Civil Society Development and Minority Empowerment, and have operated in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. In its 20-year history, GLC has brought more than 1,500 foreign participants to northwest Ohio through more than 36 grants and has leveraged \$10 million in funds from the U.S. State Department and other funders for programs in 20 countries.

About Great Lakes Community Action Partnership:

Great Lakes Consortium for International Training & Development (GLC)
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Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) has been serving the northwest Ohio area for more than 50 years. GLCAP began in 1965 as WSOS Community Action Commission following the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which helped create hundreds of community action agencies throughout the United States. Its mission is to create partnerships and opportunities to help individuals, families, and communities thrive.

More information can be found at www.glcap.org/programs/international-programs.

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