



RECRUITING U.S. MENTORS

For European Fellows from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania & Slovakia

2023-2024 PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM: EMPOWERING CITIZEN-LED DEMOCRACY



FALL 2023 & SPRING 2024 DELEGATIONS

Great Lakes Consortium for International Training & Development (GLC), a program of Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, is looking for U.S. professionals in community organizing and advocacy to host 2 European Fellows for four weeks at their host organization. Those selected to be U.S. Mentors will have the opportunity for an expenses-paid reciprocal trip to Central and Eastern Europe. U.S. Mentors are expected to find and coordinate U.S. host families for their European fellows and will gain access to the GLC international alumni network of more than 130 U.S. Mentor and 300 European Fellow alumni. European Fellows are mid-career professionals from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. Stipends for food and transportation will be provided to European Fellows. The GLC Professional Fellows Program is supported and funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

**DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR FALL 2023 DELEGATION:
THURSDAY, JUNE 15th 2023
(Spring 2024 Recruitment Rolling)**

More information at glc-teachdemocracy2.org or contact Elizabeth Balint at eebaling@glcap.org / 419 973-8007



The GLC Professional Fellows Program, a program of Northwest Ohio-based nonprofit Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP), is currently recruiting U.S. Mentors for their European Fellows from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. U.S. Mentors and their host organizations would host two European Fellows for a four-week mid-career internship from approximately September 8 to October 6, 2023. U.S. Mentors would be expected to develop a professional agenda in community organizing and advocacy, and recruit volunteer U.S. host families for the European Fellows during their four-week stay. The program theme is “Empowering Citizen-Led Democracy”, and the Fall 2023 European Fellows include mid-career professionals who focus on gender equity and women’s issues, youth empowerment, minority and rural education, disability rights, environmental organizing, union organizing, immigrant and refugee rights, and LGBTQ+ youth organizing.

In return, U.S. Mentors get an opportunity for a reciprocal expenses-paid visit to their fellows’ home countries during winter/spring 2024 to provide trainings and support local community organizing efforts. In addition, U.S. Mentors gain access to the GLC international alumni network of over 130 U.S. Mentors and over 300 European Fellows that includes monthly events, annual European reunions, and strategic partnership grants.

GLC Professional Fellows Program Overview

The Professional Fellows Program trains community organizers on governance and society. European Fellows focus on a variety of issues from minority and rural empowerment, environmental justice, non-formal education, youth engagement, housing advocacy, labor rights, gender equity, disability access, Roma communities, refugee and immigrant rights, LGBTQ+ issues, among others. The GLC Professional Fellows program has been funded by the U.S. State Department since 2011 and places European Fellows with host organizations for their four-week internship in communities 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. The U.S. State Department is especially looking for new U.S. host organizations and mentors who have not previously participated in the GLC Professional Fellows Program and applications are open to past community partners and mentors as well.

About European Fellows

European Fellows typically range in ages from 25 to 40 years old and often 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. As a result, European Fellows are encouraged to lead and 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.

U.S. Mentor Benefits:

In addition to the opportunity for an expenses-paid reciprocal visit to Europe, U.S. Mentors build global and cultural competency and experiences with community organizing leaders from Eastern Europe, as well as have access to the GLC international alumni network of over 130 U.S. Mentors and over 300 European Fellows from community organizer and nonprofit professional backgrounds. The GLC international alumni network coordinates monthly events, hosts an annual European reunion, and offers strategic partnership travel grants for continued partnership-building in the network.

U.S. Mentor Expectations:

U.S. Mentors host two European Fellows at their organization for a 35 hours-per-week professional learning environment and supports social and cultural connections in their community. U.S. Mentors expectations include the following:

- Before the internship:
 - Meet one-on-one with European Fellows online before their departure to define their internship interests and goals, and build two-way communication
 - Develop a professional agenda for European Fellows. This can include a mix of scheduled meetings and projects, introductory and networking meetings with partners, and other professional activities and projects within your organization or partnership network that fit the internship goals
 - Attend the 1.5 hour virtual Pre-Departure Host Organization and Families Orientation
 - Match European Fellows to a Host Family in your home community (see Host Family Recruitment Expectations below for more information)
- During the internship:
 - Provide a professional learning environment and social and cultural connections
 - A first-day orientation to host organizations' culture and expectations
 - A weekly check-in meeting to support two-way communication and plan for the week ahead
 - Support European Fellow's development of their Individual Project Plan, a six-to-nine-month project to implement after returning to their home country
 - Begin planning reciprocal visit's professional agenda with the European Fellows including goals and activities
 - An exit interview with the European Fellows before their departure
- Following the internship:
 - Stay in touch with your European Fellows as they implement their Individual Project Plan

- Express your interest in participating in the reciprocal trip to Europe and prepare relevant information
- Support GLC program staff in coordinating travel logistics and European Country Directors and Fellows with your travel logistics and professional agenda in Europe
- Attend a 1.5 hours virtual outbound orientation meeting prior to departure
- Gain access to the GLC alumni network with over 130 U.S. Mentor and 300 European Fellow alumni, monthly programs and activities, annual European reunions, and strategic partnership travel grants

Host Family Recruitment Expectations:

U.S. Mentors recruit and coordinate local volunteer 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 is encouraged to find someone else as you will already be spending significant time with your fellows. U.S. Mentors may recruit multiple Host Families as needed.

With any questions, please contact GLC program staff Elizabeth Balint. More information on the GLC Professional Fellows Program and the U.S. Mentor opportunity can also be found at glc-teachdemocracy2.org.

Elizabeth Balint eebalint@glcap.org cell: (419) 973-8007 (USA)

About Great Lakes Consortium for International Training & Development:

Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development (GLC), a program of GLCAP, 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 34 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 Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) has been serving the northwest Ohio area for more than 50 years by creating partnerships and opportunities to help individuals, families, and communities thrive. More information on GLCAP can be found at www.glcap.org.

Diversity

GLC Professional Fellows Program values diversity, equity, and inclusion of all diverse program participants and the diverse communities impacted and served by its program partners and alumni. GLC believes diversity includes but is not limited to race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, age, ethnicity, ability, physical and mental health status, sex, socioeconomic status, and national origin.



PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS

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