

purpose

The Charles Bannerman Memorial Fellowship Program was established to honor outstanding activists of color and give them the opportunity to reflect on their work and renew themselves for the work ahead. Bannerman Fellows receive stipends of \$15,000 for sabbaticals of three months or more.

Working for social change usually means long hours, low pay, and few

tangible rewards. Without time to stop and reflect, the day to day pressures can be overwhelming. Without resources, it is impossible to take the time.

The Charles Bannerman Memorial Fellowship Program recognizes the need to step back and recharge. The Program gives Fellows the financial support and freedom to explore new interests, travel, study, visit with other

activists, read, relax, acquire new skills, or do whatever they think is necessary to prepare for their future work.

Founded in 1987, the Program is named in honor of the late Charles Bannerman whose lifelong commitment to social and economic justice brought substantial improvements to many of the poor communities of the Mississippi Delta.

selection process

The Program is open to a broad spectrum of activists. Past Fellows have been involved in community and labor organizing, political and economic development, and cultural work. Most hold staff positions. Some are community leaders who took time off from regular jobs to do full-time organizational work during their sabbaticals. An equal number of men and women are selected as Bannerman Fellows each year.

The critical element in qualifying for a Bannerman Fellowship is that your work directly involve a clearly defined group of people in collective

action to achieve progressive social change. Beyond meeting the basic eligibility criteria, the Program seeks applicants who have had a special impact, created replicable models, or developed innovative strategies.

To apply, you must complete an application form which asks you to describe your experience, assess your accomplishments, and explain why you want a sabbatical. Awards are made primarily on the basis of current work, past accomplishments and ongoing commitment.

Rather than writing your answers, applicants are welcome to respond to

the essay questions on an audio cassette tape and may complete the application in a language other than English.

Finalists are selected on the basis of the applications and interviewed by telephone. The Review Board will choose the Fellows by March, 1994.

Applications for the 1994 Bannerman Fellowships must be postmarked by December 1, 1993.

criteria

To qualify for a Bannerman Fellowship, you must:

- be a person of color
- be a resident of the United States or its territories
- have at least ten years experience as a community activist
- have worked with specific groups of people to resolve social or economic problems by organizing and taking collective action
- have demonstrated capacity for leadership and innovation

- be committed to continuing your work for social change
- have the endorsement of the organization which employs you or with which you work most closely

In addition, preference will be given to applicants who:

- have more than ten years of experience
- are working with low income people
- are working at the grass roots level

requirements

- Fellows are encouraged to stop their day to day work activities for at least three months and devote that time to activities which are substantially different from their normal routine.
- Sabbaticals must be taken within one year of the awarding of the Fellowship.
- Activities during the sabbatical must flow from the Fellow's experience as a community activist and strengthen his/her ability to contribute to social change in the future.
- Fellows must submit a report of their sabbatical activities.

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