

Mississippi Delta Fellowship 2019 – 2021

Based in the Mississippi Delta, the Mississippi Delta Fellow (“Delta Fellow”) works in collaboration with the Delta Directions Consortium and its partners to create transformational change in the Mississippi Delta. The Delta Directions Consortium is an interdisciplinary group of academic institutions, community-based organizations, and foundations focused on pursuing improvements in health, food systems, and economic development in the Mississippi Delta Region.

The Delta Fellow is hosted by the Center for Population Studies at University of Mississippi, which is the backbone organization of Delta Directions Consortium. Reporting to the Director of the Center for Population Studies, the Fellow also works closely with the Harvard Law School Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation and Harvard Law School Mississippi Delta Project, as well as the Delta Directions Consortium Advisory Committee. The Fellowship is supported by the Winokur Family Foundation in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi.

The Delta Fellowship provides a unique opportunity to inform and catalyze community change through the creation, development, and management of interdisciplinary projects. Through their work, Fellows become familiar with community needs, resources, and challenges. Fellows have the chance to pair academic and research resources of University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, Harvard Law School, and Harvard School of Public Health with community-based organizations in the Delta, to translate academic resources into projects that address community needs. The Delta Fellow will build on existing projects, launch new projects in partnership with Delta Directions members, and have the opportunity to design one new signature project for completion during their tenure, subject to review and input by the Director of the Center for Population Studies and members of the Delta Directions Consortium.

Previous and current project themes of the Delta Directions Consortium include:

- **Food Policy:** Delta Fellows’ work has included establishing and supporting the Mississippi Food Policy Council, a diverse group of stakeholders aiming to educate Mississippians about food and farm policies that build healthy communities and strengthen local food systems; supporting farm to school programs by helping schools launch pilot programs, publishing comprehensive legal guides, and assisting in the creation of an annual statewide Farm to Cafeteria Conference; supporting small farmers by publishing guides and conducting trainings on topics such as the impacts of inheritance laws on farms; and working to increase food access, by launching farmers markets and making recommendations to eliminate the ban on drug felons utilizing SNAP.
- **Public Health:** Delta Fellows’ projects has included supporting better mental health practices via research on policies and programs needed to keep those utilizing mental health services in the least restrictive settings; supporting breastfeeding through conducting a multi-tiered outreach and education strategy, working with local hospitals to establish breastfeeding-friendly practices, and promoting systemic change through passage of local and state breastfeeding policies; research and recommendations on improving maternal and infant health; and conducting research on policy opportunities to support better lead testing in small rural water systems and blood testing for youth who may be at risk for lead exposure.
- **Economic Development:** Delta Fellows’ work has included partnering with University of Mississippi to create a small business incubator and launch a transactional legal clinic; publishing guides to support small businesses, including a small business legal guide and a guide for farmers to sell products to local Mississippi institutions; and publishing reports in support of economic development, such as recommendations for Mississippi to enact paid family leave and recommendations for Arkansas to develop a microfinance lending program.

Principal responsibilities of the Delta Fellow include:

- Managing existing and developing new projects, based on local needs, research, evidence-based results, interdisciplinary opportunities, and interest from Delta Directions partners;
- Researching, drafting, and editing policy and research reports, and educating community partners and policymakers on the research;
- Planning and advising clinical and pro bono projects for Harvard Law students in the HLS Mississippi Delta Project, the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation, and other Harvard Law School clinics;
- Identifying opportunities for and mentoring college students from local universities to work in the Delta;
- Helping to plan and host the annual Delta Regional Forum;
- Reporting twice annually to Delta Directions Advisory Committee and preparing a public annual report; and
- Supporting coordination, growth, and development of the Delta Directions Consortium.

For more information, please visit <http://www.deltadirections.com> (for information about Delta Directions) and <http://www.chlpi.org> (for information about the HLS Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation).

APPLICATION MATERIALS

This fellowship is an expected two-year commitment, subject to renewal at the end of the first year.

Experience & Qualifications:

- Law degree
- Strong writing, research, organizational and communication skills
- Interest in learning and developing skills for conducting and connecting social research and legal/policy research and working in interdisciplinary teams to inform stakeholders
- Ability to work independently and in diverse teams, and in demanding circumstances
- Strong sense of self-motivation and entrepreneurial mindset
- Demonstrated leadership experience, experience bringing together diverse stakeholders, and/or experience with direct public action or community development preferred
- Relevant academic or professional experience, including interest in or experience with economic development or public health, especially in rural areas, preferred but not required
- Interest in or knowledge of the Delta or the American South preferred

Salary: \$55,000 plus benefits per year, along with a relocation stipend, health benefits, and generous retirement benefits; also includes \$15,000 in the program budget to cover travel, event planning, hiring, and other expenses related to the position.

Application Materials & Deadline:

- Curriculum vitae, including relevant coursework, work experience, and extracurricular activities
- Personal statement (500 words maximum) about the applicant's relevant experience, interest, and suitability for the Delta Fellow position, as well as future career aspirations
- Two recommendation letters, at least one from an academic reference
- Academic transcript

Application Instructions:

Applications must be submitted through [CARAT](#). To access the submittal screen you may either search for "Mississippi Delta Fellowship" once logged into CARAT or click on [this direct link to the fellowship opportunity](#).

Please submit the application materials by midnight on March 25, 2019.