



MICKEY LELAND INTERNATIONAL HUNGER FELLOWSHIP



2021-2023 Fellowship Application Guide

PART II

How Do I Apply?



The next class of Leland Fellows will serve from fall 2021 to summer 2023. Applications for the upcoming class will be accepted from **October 16, 2020 to January 11, 2021**.

The Congressional Hunger Center seeks talented applicants from every sector and background who are dedicated to fighting hunger and poverty on a global scale. We know that a diversity of perspectives from different communities, cultures and lived experiences is critical to solving the complex challenge of hunger. Accordingly, **individuals from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds as well as those with lived experience of food insecurity are especially encouraged to apply to the Leland Fellowship.**

In the following pages you'll get a better sense whether the fellowship opportunity is a good fit for you, and what you can expect from the application process.

▲ *6th Class Leland Fellow **Rachelle Olden** ('11-'13, top left) works on a civic engagement exercise with students in San Salvador, El Salvador*

IS THE LELAND FELLOWSHIP RIGHT FOR ME?

Answer the following questions to see if this opportunity is a good fit for what you're looking for....



▲ From top: **Christine Hadekel** ('11-'13, right) prepares a food demo with Concern Worldwide in Zambia; **Dessa Shuckerow** ('13-'15, 2nd from left) helps WFP with a food distribution in Cambodia; fellows from the 7th class ('13-'15) attend a conference at IFPRI.

- Do you believe the international development and humanitarian sectors are, by and large, functioning as they should, and require no major changes?
- Do you think governments and communities in developing nations should defer to the expertise of developed nations and international NGOs in their planning and programming?
- Are you only interested in gaining experience working in developing countries? Is what happens at a headquarters office uninteresting to you?
- Do you like to be on the front lines of project implementation? Does public policy not really interest you?
- Do you have a very specific research or location interest? Is it critical that a fellowship placement align with these interests?
- Do you learn best in situations where you can be left alone to come to your own conclusions? Do you dislike learning in groups?
- Are you looking for an experience where much of your day-to-day experience is managed for you by Hunger Center staff or your supervisor at your host organization?
- Do you crave predictability? Once you make a plan, do you want to stick to it, no matter what?
- Do you expect you will be guaranteed a job placement with your host organization by the time the fellowship is complete?
- Do you want to try out this program for a year and see how it goes before you commit to doing a second year?
- Is it important to you that you be compensated as an expat?
- Do you think taking the time to explore the role that identity, power, and privilege play in traditional development models isn't necessary for doing effective work?
- Is it important to you that your housing be provided? Do you not want to have to find your own housing in a new place?

HOW DID YOU DO?

If you answered **"yes"** to any of the questions above, the Leland Fellowship is probably **not** the opportunity you are looking for. If you answered **"no"** to all of the above, read on to learn more about the application process.

AM I RIGHT FOR THE LELAND FELLOWSHIP?

Successful candidates demonstrate potential to become the leaders we need. We are looking for those who affirm with a resounding “yes” each of the following statements:

- I am passionate about food and nutrition security, and I believe adequate food and nutrition are basic human rights.
- I am confident in my ability to live long-term in a developing country (and a developed country).
- I've displayed flexibility and ability to adapt in past experiences.
- I see difficult situations as opportunities for growth, and find ways to move forward in the face of challenges and uncertainty.
- I can communicate and work well with people from a variety of cultural backgrounds, both within and outside of my own country.
- I believe that good programming and good policy are both critical to making change at scale. I believe understanding both is critical to making sustainable change.
- I am up for the challenge of two different placement experiences in two years.
- I can work well independently and take ownership of my time and tasks.
- I want to explore the role that identity, privilege, and power play in international development.
- I want to think critically about the international development sector and how I can work toward making it better.
- I have an educational background or work experience relevant to international development, food security and/or nutrition.*
- I can imagine many ways in which I would grow and learn from the fellowship experience, even if it's not always comfortable.
- I want to grow and learn as part of an active cohort community.
- I am a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident.



► *From top: 3rd class fellows attend a briefing on U.S. food aid during training; 5th class fellows ride the Capitol subway to meetings with Senators during policy training; **Mercy Erhiawarien** ('13-'15) speaks as part of a Hunger Fellow alum panel at Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.*

* Most fellows come into the program with a graduate degree, though a bachelor's degree with 1-2 years of work or volunteer experience is also adequate. Additionally, some placements may require specific skills such as language proficiency, a particular graduate degree or coursework, or other specific technical skills; [see page six](#) for a list of most relevant skills and content areas.

WHAT DOES THE APPLICATION PROCESS LOOK LIKE?



September-December 2020

Host organizations apply to host a fellow.



October 16, 2020-January 11, 2021

Fellowship applications are accepted at our website.

At this time we will host several webinars to answer questions from prospective fellows. Make sure to sign up for our mailing list for updates!



January 2021

Program panel reviews applications.

Applicants are assessed on fit for the fellowship and knowledge and skills to match with specific placements.



February 2021

First-round candidates contacted for online group interviews.

Candidates discuss a set of readings and devise joint recommendations.



March 2021

Semi-finalists selected for individual interviews with program panel.

These interviews further assess fit for the program and specific placements.



April-May 2021

Program staff match finalists and host organizations.

Finalists and host organizations talk directly to review the proposed scope of work, and both parties give a final thumbs-up or thumbs down on the match.

If all parties are in agreement, candidates receive a formal fellowship offer.

NEXT STEPS FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

If you want to become a Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellow, stay connected with the Hunger Center—

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

For all the latest news from the Hunger Center, including updates on application deadlines and stories of fellows and their work, [make sure to join our mailing list!](#)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We're on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#)—follow us and say hello!

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you've got questions about the fellowship or the application process that this guide doesn't answer, contact Program & Operations Associate **Layla Amarir** at lamarir@hungercenter.org.

► **Curan Bonham** ('09-'11, left) surveys red chili peppers with Bioversity International in India.



ABOUT THE HUNGER CENTER'S APPROACH



Hunger is a multifaceted and far-reaching problem—and the movement to end it should be, too.

We believe that governments, nonprofits, educational institutions, corporations, philanthropy, and individuals all have a role to play, and a variety of approaches and strategies are required to solve the problem.



Any lasting solution to hunger must be led by people with first-hand expertise.

We invest in the leadership of people who have experienced hunger and poverty and people of color—who are disproportionately affected by hunger—as designers, implementers, and evaluators of anti-hunger programs and projects.



Breakdowns in understanding and differences in perspective on the root causes of the problem stand in the way of scalable solutions.

We focus on bridging the gap between community-based work and public policy, highlighting the ways that each can inform and strengthen the other.

[Read more about our approach.](#)



► Representative
Mickey Leland
(1944-1989)

WHO WAS MICKEY LELAND?

The Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program serves as a living legacy to **Rep. Mickey Leland**, a Member of Congress who emerged as a passionate leader in the fight to eradicate hunger in the United States and around the world. Leland, a Democrat, was first elected to represent the 18th District of Texas in 1978. During his time in Congress, he chaired the House Select Committee on Hunger and the Congressional Black Caucus and was an outspoken advocate for increasing U.S. aid to Africa.

Leland died at the age of 44 in a plane crash visiting humanitarian sites in Ethiopia. While his untimely death robbed the world of a true leader and advocate in the fight against hunger and poverty, his passion and dedicated efforts serve as inspiration and foundation for the Congressional Hunger Center's anti-hunger work.



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Have questions not covered by this guide?
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Photo of Lincoln Memorial courtesy [Casey Horner](#)

Photo of Mercy Erhiawarien courtesy [Farzana Quaraishi](#)

Cover Photo: Leland Hunger Fellow **Michael Wang** (middle) and a colleague from the IFPRI Myanmar team posing with a woman who manages a pesticide retail shop in Sagaing Region, Myanmar. Image courtesy of Michael Wang.

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