



Request to Participate

The Lincoln Vibrant Communities Fellows Program

Overview

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and Claremont Lincoln University (CLU) are seeking their second cohort of fellows for the Lincoln Vibrant Communities Fellows Program. Over the next decade, the Lincoln Institute, a globally recognized nonprofit operating foundation, and Claremont Lincoln University, an accredited private nonprofit university, will partner with municipalities in the US to address common, complex challenges facing counties and cities. The Fellows Program focuses on investing in leadership, policy, and advanced practical skills to help build vibrant, engaged communities defined by trust, facilitated by resident agency, and focused on positive change.

If you are a leader who is already engaged in or who aspires to create critical change in your community, we are pleased to invite you to apply to be one of 40 fellows selected from across the country to take part in this program.

Supported by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the Vibrant Communities Fellows Program is powered by the distinctive leadership framework of Claremont Lincoln University and infused with the Lincoln Institute's nearly 80 years of research, cases, toolkits, and advanced practices using land policy to support the public and private sectors in creating thriving municipalities that benefit all residents. The six-month hybrid program begins and ends with immersive in-person training complemented by full online leadership curricula, individual and group coaching, expert webinars and training, and peer networking on emerging practices that help cities and counties grapple with vexing local challenges. Upon completion, fellows receive a nine-credit graduate certificate in advanced public sector leadership. Faculty include experts who work in the field and have direct experience addressing issues such as infrastructure planning and finance, water management, affordable housing production and preservation, housing the unhoused, public health, climate preparedness and resilience, and more.

After the program, fellows will be invited to join a national network of catalysts for local change, leaders who tend to and who engage others across the public and private sector in

transforming their communities. Fellows also will be invited to join a team-based phase of Lincoln Vibrant Communities working directly on a critical challenge in their municipality.

The Advanced Practice Graduate Certificate will allow fellows to apply nine credits toward a master's or doctoral degree. Topics that will be covered in the certificate include:

- Methods to drive municipal change:
 - Scenario planning
 - Data visualization and AI practice
 - Strategic communication
 - Conflict management and mediation
 - Building cases and models
 - Developing a workforce pipeline
 - Defining policies and systems for intentional and intended change
 - Storytelling to inspire, influence, and advocate

- New, urgently needed leadership for the public sector
 - Situational awareness
 - Ethical leadership in a fractured world
 - Dialogue and collaboration
 - Change and conflict management
 - Resilient and culturally competent professionalism
 - Engagement of diverse perspectives for change

Cost

Through the generosity of the Lincoln Institute and Claremont Lincoln University, this Vibrant Communities Fellows Program is almost entirely underwritten. Fellows pay only \$1,500 plus travel to two events. Training, lodging, the graduate certificate, expert coaching, inclusion in the national network, and the rest of the program are fully underwritten by the partner institutions. Additional optional programming will be provided at cost.

Who Should Apply

- Current, emerging, and aspiring public sector leaders
- Community leaders working with the public sector

- Business and industry leaders working with the public sector

Return on Investment

- Deepened leadership capacity to address complex municipal challenges
- Knowledge and practical application of advanced policies, practices, and approaches to address these challenges
- Skill in strategic communication and effective engagement of diverse community perspectives
- A network and intentional community of content experts and colleagues
- A nine-credit advanced practice graduate certificate in leadership designed specifically for public and private sector leaders focused on municipal change (See application instructions below for more information regarding graduate credits)
- Increased impact and agency as an ethical, engaged leader

Application Instructions and Timeline

The application must be written in English and submitted via the online form by October 24, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Please upload a copy of your current resume or CV brief. Your response to the open-ended questions should not exceed 500 words. Fellows will be notified of their acceptance by November 5, 2024.

Applicants must be living and working in the United States during the program. Current and past employees, board members, or family members of CLU or the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy are not eligible for the Fellows Program. Current CLU degree-seeking students are not eligible to apply unless they have the endorsement of the Chief Academic Officer and are currently working directly with the public sector. Current CLU degree-seeking students should contact Lee Kane, Associate Dean of Novel Programs (lkane@claremontlincoln.edu) for more information.

This hybrid 24-week program culminates in a nine-unit for-credit graduate certificate from Claremont Lincoln University, which fellows can:

- Receive as its own post-graduate achievement
- Apply to a CLU Master's Degree
- Convert into 12 baccalaureate credits (only when applied to a CLU Bachelor of Organizational Leadership degree)

Online instruction is designed for asynchronous learning, which allows you to engage at any time, no matter where you are in the country.

The transferability of graduate credits to other accredited institutions depends upon the receiving institution. Fellows applying without a conferred baccalaureate degree will not be eligible to receive graduate credit but are welcome to participate in the program for a certificate of completion. Please contact Heather Weinberg, Director of Novel Programs (hweinberg@claremontlincoln.edu) with questions about credits and eligibility.

The program will launch with a Lincoln Vibrant Communities Fellows Kickoff Conference on January 30-31, 2025, in Chicago, IL and will conclude with a Closing Conference on June 19-20, 2025, in Chicago, IL. These events are mandatory, and applicants must agree that they will be able to attend these events in full.

Questions About this RFP

For questions regarding this request for proposals, please send an email to Heather Weinberg, Director of Novel Programs, at hweinberg@claremontlincoln.edu.