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NorthStar Youth Worker Fellowship Application – 2016-17

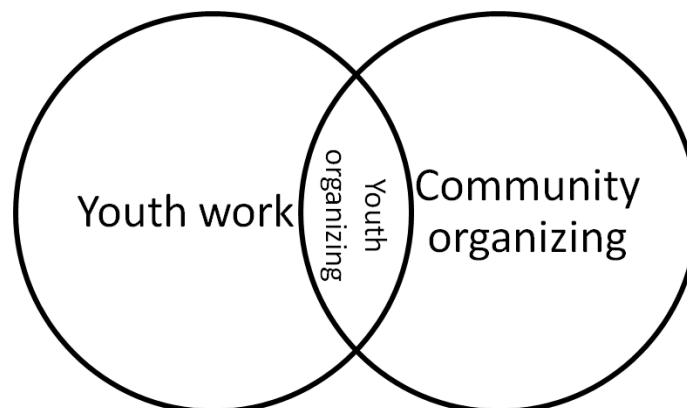
The purpose of the NorthStar Youth Worker Fellowship is to engage a cohort of experienced youth work practitioners in exploration, reflection, and study to generate more wisdom, language, and leadership in the field of youth work in Minnesota. Fellows in the 2016-17 cohort **will examine youth organizing as a framework for youth work.** Fellows may look at youth organizing work in Minnesota's past as well as explore the possible impact of using this approach on current youth work practice. Each of the fellows will frame an inquiry question and spend the year reviewing relevant research and writings; tapping the local wisdom of their professional network; engaging in conversation with local and national leaders in the field; and writing a position paper that will inform systems development and field advancement in Minnesota.

THEME — Youth Organizing as a Framework for Youth Work

"...all young people have the inherent capacity to be active, contributing partners in their own individual development as well as in the development of their communities." Vera Miao, Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing

"What is important is what a person is, and does, for the community." Gisela Konopka

"States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child..." Article 12, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



Community organizing is the process where people come together to address needs in their community. Youth work can be defined as intentionally engaging young people in programs that may promote personal and social development. But, what happens when they intersect? What is youth organizing? Who leads this work? How do they do it? What is the role of the adult youth worker? What are the ethical considerations that must be addressed when intentionally engaging youth in civic action or social change efforts? Who is doing or has done this work in Minnesota? The 2016-17 NorthStar Fellowship will give you a chance to help answer these important questions and generate more.

Each Fellow will write a paper that examines youth organizing work in Minnesota's past as well as explore the possible impact of using this approach on current youth work practice. Each of the fellows will frame an inquiry question and spend the year reviewing relevant research and writings; tapping the local wisdom of their professional network; engaging in conversation with local and national leaders in the field; and writing a position paper that will inform future youth work practice in Minnesota. Fellows will engage in secondary research, surveys, focus groups, interviews, and site visits to inform their position, and tap into their professional networks as part of the process.

APPLICATION

I. Personal Information — please complete and attach a current resume

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Agency: _____ Title: _____
Preferred Telephone: () _____ E-mail: _____

II. Application Questions — please answer each of the following questions on a separate sheet(s) of paper. (Maximum 1,000 words total)

1. Why are you interested in being part of the NorthStar Fellowship? What are your personal and professional goals that relate to the Fellowship?
2. Why are you interested in the topic of youth organizing?
3. What types of experiences and/or knowledge will you bring to the Fellowship cohort?
4. How will you use your professional networks and other methods of data collection to inform the development of your position paper?

III. Applicant Memorandum of Understanding — Please initial and sign

_____ I have read the Fellowship Overview and agree to the Fellowship requirements.

_____ I understand that if I am accepted as a Fellow that I am required to attend meetings consistently and spend significant time reading, writing, and meeting in the periods between the monthly Fellowship meetings. I am required to a day-long Orientation Event on September 13, 2016; a day-long writing retreat in April 2017; produce a final paper; and participate in a public presentation of my paper in the summer, 2017.

Applicant Signature

Date

IV. Supervisor Memorandum of Understanding — Please initial and sign

_____ I have read the Fellowship Overview and agree to the Fellowship requirements.

_____ If selected as a NorthStar Fellow, I will allow _____ to attend required meetings including a day-long Orientation Event on September 13, 2016; a day-long writing retreat in April 2017; attend monthly meetings consistently; and participate in a public presentation of papers in the summer, 2017.

Supervisor Signature

Date

V. Submitting Your Application

Please submit:

- Completed application form, including your answers to the Application Questions, the Applicant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by you, and the Supervisor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by your supervisor
- Current resume

Applications must be received by June 30, 2016. Please submit them by email to:

Email: **northstar.fellows@gmail.com**

If you have questions or would like more information on the NorthStar Fellowship, please contact: Sheila Oehrlein at **sheila.oehrlein@state.mn.us** (651) 582-8448