

Request to Participate

The Inaugural Fellows Program for Lincoln Vibrant Communities

Overview

The [Lincoln Institute of Land Policy](#) and [Claremont Lincoln University](#) are seeking the inaugural cohort of fellows for the Lincoln Vibrant Communities initiative. 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 inaugural Vibrant Communities Fellows 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 inaugural 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.

Timeline

The program will launch with the Inaugural Lincoln Vibrant Communities Fellows Conference, September 12–13, 2024, in Chicago, IL. The program concludes with a Lincoln Vibrant Communities Fellows Expo in March 2025, location TBD.

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 (Fellows may request baccalaureate credits in lieu of the certificate; academic credit may be applied toward graduate and undergraduate degree programs.)
- Increased impact and agency as an ethical, engaged leader

Application Instructions

The application must be written in English and submitted via the [online form](#) by June 11, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Please upload a copy of your current resume or CV brief. Your response to the open-ended questions should not exceed 500 words.

Applications will be reviewed throughout the process and fellows will be notified by July 1, 2024.

This hybrid 24-week program culminates in a nine-unit for-credit certificate from Claremont Lincoln University, which can be applied toward completing a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, or post-graduate credits.

The program begins with a kick-off event in Chicago, Illinois, that begins on the afternoon of September 12, 2024, and ends at 1 p.m. on September 13, 2024. This in-person event will begin the program, which concludes in March 2025. Online instruction is designed for asynchronous learning, which allows you to engage at any time, no matter where you are in the country.

Questions About this RFP

For questions regarding this request for proposals, please send an email to Anne K. Turner, senior project officer, at aturner@claremontlincoln.edu.