



What is the COACH Fellowship?

The COACH Fellowship is a new community leadership program in Lexington, designed specifically for young Black males who are committed to becoming more civically engaged, and are interested in pursuing a career in city government. COACH is a full-time experience of civic engagement, leadership development, case management and workforce training, over a 24 month period.

Who is Cities United?

Cities United is a national organization committed to reducing community violence impacting Black males.

Why is Cities United building a Fellowship Model?

Cities United's Civic Engagement Fellowship will serve as a catalyst to changing the landscape for local civic engagement, participation and leadership for young Black men. The Fellowship also serves as a vehicle to increase life outcomes, mitigate risk to violence, and reduce high-risk behavior. The City of Lexington (COACH); and City of Louisville (Thrive) are joint partners in the pilot of the Civic Engagement Fellowship.

Goals for the fellowship:

- ❖ Increased number of young black men prepared for leadership roles within city government
- ❖ Develop career pathways for each fellow with clearly defined support and follow-up case management
- ❖ Increased enrollment in post-secondary programs & attainment of certificates, trades and degrees
- ❖ Draft policy agendas focused on creating change in the criminal justice, educational and workforce systems

Who should apply?

Young Black men in Lexington, ages 22-26, who are currently involved with (or have previous encounters) with the justice system. The first cohort is designed for men with misdemeanor convictions. (Future cohorts may also include men with felony convictions, or related barriers to community re-entry). Each application will be evaluated on case by case basis. Up to 15 COACH Fellows will be selected over the next 3 years.

When does the COACH Fellowship begin?

Beginning in September 2018, Fellows will participate in a rigorous weekly schedule of programming, Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Note: Full-time commitment & availability to Fellowship is required.

Where will the Fellowship occur?

The majority of the Fellowship's training and engagement will occur locally in Lexington. Routine travel to Louisville, Frankfort, and throughout Kentucky will also be scheduled (distant transportation is provided).

What are the cost and benefits of the Fellowship?

There is no application fee or participation cost for the Fellows. Each Fellow will be awarded a stipend package to support daily living expenses, food and clothing, housing, education/training expenses, etc.

For more information, please contact:

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