

JIM SCHMIDT FELLOWSHIP 2021

Introduction

Working Together Group, a coalition of farmworker-serving organizations in New York State, will accept applications for the second Jim Schmidt Fellowship on a rolling basis until the position is filled. The Jim Schmidt Leadership Fellowship will provide an opportunity for someone, who is either a farmworker or from a farmworking family, to develop their leadership and organizing skills through a 10-month stipended educational Fellowship. The Fellow will work on an approved project having to do with farmworker justice, such as in legislative advocacy, farmworker organizing, legal cases, or on a related justice issue within farmworker education, health, housing, etc. We conceptualize the Jim Schmidt Fellowship as training program to prepare an emerging activist for a career in radical change, rather than as a typical job or internship.

The Fellowship was established in memory of Jim Schmidt, life-long organizer and previous Director of Farmworker Legal Services of New York (now Worker Justice Center). In the spirit of Jim's long history as an educator, trainer, and radicalizer of many a young leader, this Fellowship will honor Jim's legacy as we offer an educational experience that directly relates to Jim's politics, influences, and daily practices.

Our Mission

To develop leadership and organizing skills in a young person from a farmworker family who is committed to working for justice and change for farmworkers, a Fellow that brings a vision and goals for their justice work, and is eager to be informed by the Jim Schmidt Fellowship experience.

Position Requirements:

- A commitment to justice
- Experience working on a farm or being a member of a farmworking family
- Driver's license
- A willingness to work irregular hours and drive a lot of miles!
- Respect for people of all backgrounds
- Pledge to maintain open communication with fellow staff
- Bilingual or Multilingual in English and another language(s)
- At least 21 years old

PRIORITY DEADLINE January 15, 2021. Rolling Admissions until position filled.

Interested applicants should send the complete application (see following pages) and resume to:
Shawn Tallant, rmshawn@gmail.com

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Position Details

This is a full-time (35 hour/week) Fellow position with flexible hours and days. Compensation includes:

- \$18,480/ stipend for 10 months
- Housing in Lyons, NY
- Access to a vehicle with gas card for professional and personal use
- Full medical and dental insurance (If eligible, we may help you apply for Medicaid)
- Four weeks of vacation

In partnership with the Working Together Group, the Fellow will divide their time between the following activities:

- Support ongoing programs: (55% of time) The Fellow will be based at Rural & Migrant Ministry (RMM) and work collaboratively on projects with all Working Together Group (WTG) agencies.
- Independent project: (35% of time) The Fellow will propose, implement, and evaluate a short-term project with the goal to have long-term impact on farmworking communities in Western New York that includes WTG organizations.
- Educational enrichment: (10% of time) The Fellow will follow a weekly curriculum that includes reading, discussion with mentors, and additional exposure to the work of different WTG members and allies in the labor movement.

Application Process

1. Submit a written application.
2. Select candidates will be contacted to arrange a Zoom interview. All applicants will be informed of whether or not they have been selected for an interview.
3. Final candidates will be contacted to arrange a second Zoom interview. All candidates will be informed of whether or not they have been selected for the position.
4. The preferred start date is in March 2021; the start date is negotiable for ideal candidates.

WTG's Global Non-discrimination Policy provides that we do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of gender, color, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, pregnancy, covered veteran status, protected genetic information and/or political affiliation

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Application

Section A. Demographic information:

Your Name: _____ D.O.B. ____/____/____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone #: _____

Have you personally worked on a farm? **Yes No** When? _____ Region? _____

Do you have family members who have done farm work? **Yes No**

Who? _____ When? _____ Region? _____

Level of Education (high school, bachelors, etc) _____

Name of most recent educational institution: _____

Do you have a valid driver's license in the United States? (Required) **Yes No**

What languages do you speak? _____

Section B. References:

List 2 references we may contact who are not related to you. Provide name, contact information, and relationship to you (teacher, minister, counselor, etc).

1). _____ (_____) _____
Name Day time phone number

E-mail address _____ Relationship _____ Years known _____

2). _____ (_____) _____
Name Day time phone number

E-mail address _____ Relationship _____ Years known _____

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Section C. Essay:

The Jim Schmidt Fellowship Committee is looking to get to know you more. Please answer the following prompt in one essay of 600 words or less. Draw upon our mission and philosophy.

Why would you like to be the 2020 Jim Schmidt Fellow? How will the position help you become a lifelong organizer?

Mission

To develop leadership and organizing skills in a young person from a farmworker family who is committed to working for justice and change for farmworkers, a Fellow that brings a vision and goals for their justice work, and is eager to be informed by the Jim Schmidt Fellowship experience.

Philosophy

1. We understand that working for justice and learning to organize is a collective process that is ongoing.
2. We recognize that effective organizing inspires people to identify needed changes and engage in collective action to affect change.
3. We believe that transformative growth experiences are grounded in relationships with the safety to work through conflict and identify opportunities.

Section D. Resume:

Please include a copy of your most recent professional resume.

Contact Shawn Tallant with any questions. Shawn is gathering the applications and questions for consideration by the committee. We also encourage you to reach out if you are trying to decide whether the Fellowship would be a good fit for you. One of us will be more than willing to talk about the Fellowship at any point in your application or decision-making process.

Phone: (315) 871-4031

Email: rmshawn@gmail.com